

Electrical Stimulation Therapy (Estim) – CONSENT FORM

Electrical stimulation therapy (Estimim), involves the delivery electrical current at low levels that would normally produce pins needles sensation, directly to the wound using specialized sterile electrodes and equipment. There is strong clinical research evidence that electrical stimulation therapy can accelerate closure of open skin wounds that are delayed in healing because of number co-existing medical conditions such as pressure injuries, diabetic foot ulcers, and leg wounds due to peripheral vascular disease. Estim works by replacing the electrical current that naturally speeds healing, it promotes local circulation and delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the area, it keeps the wound clean and free of bacteria, and facilitates deposition of new tissue in the base of the wound and promotes covering of the wound with new skin. An additional benefit of Estim, includes nerve stimulation that can reduce pain associated with the wound.

Estim is most often applied directly to the wound bed using specialized equipment and sterile electrodes and wound dressings. The small Estim device used to deliver a specialized type of electrical current is battery operated and very portable. Estim is applied by a qualified person who has received specific training using this treatment. The treatment is usually applied directly to the wound at each dressing change. For best results it should be used daily for at least 45-60 minutes. Some specialized machines and can be programmed to deliver several treatments over an extended period (6-8 hours per day).

This treatment should not produce pain at any time during the treatment and should not increase pain experienced at other times during the day or night. You may experience a mild tingling or pins & needles sensation while the Estim device is turned on. If muscles under the electrodes begin to contract or flicker, the machine needs to be turned down. There may be some discomfort associated with placing the electrode within the wound. A small increase in pinkish drainage coming from the wound is to be expected however, a large amount of drainage that overwhelms the dressing or a wound discharge that is bloody or foul smelling is a sign that the treatment should be stopped and re-evaluated. The skin around the wound may increase in redness for a few hours after ESTIM treatment. Should the skin around the wound remain red for greater than 4 hours, look like a rash, or be sore to touch after the treatment, please discontinue the treatment.

Risks associated with the use of Estim are minimal when Estim is applied by a qualified person and using instructions that you should have been provided. Should the machine malfunction a sudden surge of electrical current could be delivered from the machine which would cause pain, cause muscles in the area to spasm, and/or cause a burning or intense stinging sensation under the electrodes. If the Estim machine is set too high, it could cause pain and damage the tissue or skin underneath the electrodes. Continued inappropriate use of the Estim device or by using poor hygienic application techniques could lead to wound deterioration and/or infection.

If you experience any of these undesirable responses during or after the treatment discontinue Estim treatments immediately and contact the health care professional listed below. Do not recommence Estim treatments unless instructed to do so by this contact person.

Name: _____ Contact number: _____

I understand the risks and benefits of Estim therapy and have had questions about this therapy answered to my satisfaction. I wish to proceed with Estim therapy. I agree to follow written instructions when applying Estim.

Client Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Witness: _____