

IMPLANTATION TECHNIQUE OF A NOVEL VAGAL BLOCKADE MEDICAL DEVICE FOR THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY.

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Maestro™ System is an implantable medical device that electrically blocks both vagi near the oesophagogastric junction. The electrodes are implanted laparoscopically and deliver a high-frequency current (referred to as VBLOC™ therapy) via a neuroregulator to intermittently block the vagal trunks. The patient wears an external transmit coil connected to a battery pack which transcutaneously powers the neuroregulator via radio-frequency energy. VBLOC therapy, delivered by the Maestro System, is currently undergoing clinical investigation to assess its ability to induce weight loss in patients with morbid obesity.

The aim of the video is to show the technique of laparoscopic implantation of the neuroregulator and placement of the electrodes around both vagi. Five trocars are placed in the standard position for bariatric surgery. The lesser omentum is divided, and the phrenoesophageal membrane is dissected circumferentially along the right crus to expose the oesophagus. The anterior and posterior vagal trunks are exposed and one electrode is placed around each vagi just above the gastroesophageal junction. The electrodes are secured to the oesophagus with non-absorbable sutures and each lead is secured by a strain-relief tab sutured to the stomach. Each lead is connected to the neuroregulator. A left lateral subcutaneous pocket above the costal margin is developed and the neuroregulator is sutured to the underlying fascia. An impedance is performed to check for satisfactory electrode contact and neuroregulator function, with subsequent closure of all wounds.