U.S. Food and Drug Administration Clears Device to Reduce Symptoms of Opioid Drug Withdrawal

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared an auricular neurostimulation device, Drug Relief®, by DyAnsys Inc., to be used as an aid to reduce symptoms of opioid drug withdrawal without narcotics.

Drug Relief is available for providers to prescribe for use during opioid detoxification. The wearable device sends electrical pulses through tiny needles inserted in the ear to alleviate symptoms such as anxiety, agitation, depression, nausea, and opiate cravings.

An estimated 11.5 million American individuals ages ≥12 misused prescription pain medicine in 2016, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. More than 2.5 million American individuals have opioid use disorder, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Drug Relief is a percutaneous electrical nerve field stimulator designed to administer auricular neurostimulation treatment over 120 hours. The non-addictive treatment allows for continuous nerve stimulation over 5 days while offering patients a high degree of comfort and mobility. According to providers, patients may see a reduction in symptoms of opioid drug withdrawal within 30 to 60 minutes of beginning treatment.

The device eases the process of detoxification, which is the first step in a comprehensive rehabilitation program. The objective is to ease symptoms while opioid drugs are cleared from a patient’s system. The device can be used to help stabilize a patient during the early stages of withdrawal without side effects.


Online Training Videos for Caregivers of Individuals With Dementia

To address needs of the aging population, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) offers online training videos for caregivers of individuals with dementia. The UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care Program has been producing a series of online videos aimed at helping caregivers understand how to care for individuals with dementia. The videos use actors who portray patients with dementia and their caregivers (based on real patients) and cover a wide range of issues and challenges facing caregivers.

The program has produced 18 videos, including videos on aggressive language/behavior, mood changes, safety, repetitive behaviors, and more.