What is a VNS?

Vagus nerve stimulation prevents seizures by sending pulses of electrical energy to the brain via the vagus nerve. These pulses are supplied by a device something like a pacemaker.

How is a VNS used?

- A neurologist programs the interval settings.
- Holding a special magnet near the device causes it to deliver a burst of stimulation outside the programmed intervals. Activating the device if patients have auras before seizures or during a seizure can help stop the seizure.
- Patients should carry their magnet with them at all times.
- The battery for the stimulator must be replaced every 5-10 years by neurosurgery.