

"It's an absolute workhorse and it's hard for me to envision running my practice without it"

Talking Sonesta chairs with Dr. Jonathan Vapnek



For which procedures are you using the Sonesta chair?

We do all of our urodynamic studies, all of our cystoscopy procedures, plus all of our vasectomies and other minor surgery procedures as well. Our procedure room is now certified as an operating room, so I can do any procedure that I'm comfortable with in my office.

How many patients in a typical week are using the Sonesta Chair?

We do 4-5 procedures almost every day of the week, but we also use the chair for "special needs" patients – those in a wheelchair, those who have limited mobility, and those who can't step up to the standard height exam tables. This chair allows us to see patients who otherwise would have to go to a hospital-based clinic. That's huge.

What are some of the benefits of having a Sonesta chair?

This chair, which can be lowered to barely a foot off the floor, allows our disabled patients to transfer onto the chair easily. It takes up very little room and is extremely sturdy when the wheels are locked. Once they're unlocked, it's easily moveable. There are three hydraulic systems that allow the chair to be adjusted in so many ways that even patients with limited mobility and stiff joints can be positioned with ease.

What do you like the most of the characteristics of a Sonesta chair when using it?

This chair does everything. And it's so incredibly sturdy – over more than 12 years, we've had essentially no problems at all. When service is required – once every ten years – it was very easy to arrange and was done professionally. I would have expected to have had to replace the chair already – but it's working every bit as well now as it was the day we bought it.

Will the chair make the procedure more tolerable/acceptable to the patient? How & why?

The three separate hydraulic systems allow all patients to be positioned without difficulty and

also allow adjustments during procedures when necessary.

Will the use of the Sonesta Chair make the procedure easier for you and your staff to perform? How & why?

This chair has been in my office since the day we opened and has made performing procedures and examining "special needs" patients a breeze.

Which accessories to the chair are you using most often and for which procedure?

For cystoscopy, we use the leg rests. For urodynamics, we use the adjustable foot rests. For examining patients, we simply add the table extension. Switching between these options takes a minute or two and is incredibly easy.

If you could change or add anything to the chair, what would that be?

Honestly, I love my chair "as is". It is an absolute workhorse and I can't imagine practicing outpatient urology without it.

If you had to describe the Sonesta Chair to someone – what would you say?

I would tell anyone who'd listen that this was by far the best purchase I made for my office when I opened more than twelve years ago. My cystoscopy equipment has needed repair and replacement more than once. My urodynamic equipment has required servicing and replacement several times. The Sonesta chair? One minor repair several years ago and one replacement part in 12 years is all it took. Best long-term purchase ever!

What would you share with another doctor about the chair and its benefits if asked about justifying the cost?

We use this chair for every procedure and for every patient who can't get up to a standard exam table. It's in use all day, every day. It's a cost that's amortized over well over ten years – which is trivial compared to all of the ongoing costs we all put up with in the normal practice of medicine. It's an absolute workhorse and it's hard for me to envision running my practice without it.

Do you have any closing comments for us?

Urology has become more and more an office-based specialty, so the ability to do virtually all of my procedures in the office increases efficiency dramatically. No longer do I have to go to the hospital or even an ambulatory surgery center. As reimbursements drop and insurance companies make it more and more difficult to do procedures anywhere other than the office, the ability to stay in your office all day – and to do procedures throughout the day while continuing to see patients – makes a chair like this essential to practice medicine in this changing environment.

About Dr. Vapnek

Dr. Vapnek offers comprehensive urologic care, as well as a special focus on urinary control problems among women, those with spinal cord injuries and individuals with neurologic disorders. Caring for these patients involves not only leveraging the latest in urologic care technique, but also a sensitivity to the impact of such disorders on patients' quality of life. Dr. Vapnek sees every patient personally and builds a strong working relationship, which is particularly important to treatment for patients with chronic conditions.

Diseases treated

Dr. Vapnek treats the following conditions/diseases:

- Urinary Incontinence
- Neurogenic Bladder
- UTI
- Prostate Disease
- Erectile Dysfunction
- Kidney Stones
- Pelvic Prolapse
- Overactive Bladder

Contact

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