dysphagia, and a function for performing treatment of dysphagia in accordance with the test result.

[0076] In the present configuration example, step S15 in FIG. 9(a) corresponds to "step of applying" in claims 18 and 19, step S12 to S15, S17, and S18 in FIG. 9(a) corresponds to "step of obtaining" in claims 18 and 19, step S16 in FIG. 9(a) corresponds to "step of displaying" in claim 18, and step S19 in FIG. 9(a) corresponds to "step of causing --- to be outputted" in claim 19.

[0077] FIG. 6(a) is a diagram showing an external configuration of a dysphagia treatment device 1 in a state where the dysphagia treatment device 1 is attached to a treated person M1. FIG. 6(b) is a perspective view showing a state where a treatment unit body 2 is mounted to a charger 4.

[0078] As shown in FIG. 6(a), the dysphagia treatment device 1 includes the treatment unit body 2 and a current application unit 3. The treatment unit body 2 includes a display unit 21 and an operation unit 22. The display unit 21 displays the value of a current percutaneously applied by the current application unit 3 to the treated person M1, and information such as a treatment time period set by the operator. The operation unit 22 includes: a key for increasing or decreasing the value of the current percutaneously applied to the treated person M1; a key for setting a treatment time period; and the like. The treatment

Accordingly, “2” is displayed in the order region 216 shown FIG. 11(b), and the index information (current value) and the voltage level obtained in the treatment of 2-times before are displayed in the current value region 213 and the indicator region 212, respectively.

[0129] Thus, the operator can refer to the index information and the voltage level obtained in the treatment of a desired number of times before, by operating the UP key 223 and the DOWN key 224. On the basis of the index information referred to, the operator can understand the degree of improvement of dysphagia and the progress degree of the improvement. Accordingly, appropriate treatment can be provided to the treated person M1.

[0130] <Effect>

According to the dysphagia treatment device 1 described above, the following effect can be exhibited.

[0131] The index information based on the sensory threshold at which the treated person M1 becomes aware of percutaneous stimulation is displayed on the display unit 21, as an evaluation index for dysphagia. Thus, the operator can evaluate the state of dysphagia of the treated person M1 on the basis of the outputted index information.

[0132] The treatment current value It is adjusted in accordance with the level of dysphagia of the treated person M1. Thus, stimulation appropriate for the level of dysphagia of the treated person M1 can be percutaneously applied to the superior

the operator can know when the past index information was obtained, and can more properly understand the progress degree of the improvement of dysphagia.

[0154] In the example shown in FIGS. 10(a) to 10(c), the voltage and the current applied to the treated person M1 are varied stepwise in accordance with the operation. However, the voltage and the current may not necessarily be varied stepwise, and the voltage and the current may be linearly varied in accordance with operation.

[0155] In the configuration example described above, the value of current percutaneously applied to the treated person M1 is adjusted by controlling the voltage. However, the value of current percutaneously applied to the treated person M1 may be adjusted by controlling the current such that the current value measured by the current detection unit 26 is varied in accordance with operation performed on the UP key 223 and the DOWN key 224.

[0156] In the process shown in FIG. 9(a), in response to the obtainment of the sensory threshold Is, the treatment current value It is automatically set. However, the dysphagia treatment device 1 may be configured such that the operator manually sets the treatment current value It with reference to the displayed sensory threshold Is.

[0157] In the configuration shown in FIG. 6(a), two pairs the electrodes 33 are attached to the treated person M1. However,