

SUPERIOR RESULTS AT NORTHWEST HOSPITAL

The success of DBS surgery depends on the submillimetric accuracy of lead placement in the brain. Other DBS programs across the country sometimes require as many as four or five attempts to place the lead correctly. At Northwest Hospital, 99% of the DBS procedures require only one insertion attempt. Fewer attempts means a shorter, more accurate procedure that is better tolerated by patients. It also reduces the operative and post-operative risks.

A TEAM APPROACH

Our multi-disciplinary DBS team includes specialists in neurosurgery, rehabilitation, nursing, neuropsychology and medical physics. Our team approach provides patients with the best possible outcomes and superior care throughout the course of their treatment.

By partnering with you and your physician, our team assures your care is coordinated and your needs are met. Our goal is to restore your function and improve the quality of your life.

In addition to community and patient education, rehabilitation is a fundamental component of the DBS program at Northwest Hospital, including speech pathology and yoga classes geared toward individuals who suffer from Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.

MORE INFORMATION

If you or a family member would like more information on DBS, or if you would like to see if you are a good candidate for the procedure, call the Northwest Hospital & Medical Center DBS Program at (206) 368-5935.

DIRECTIONS

- From I-5, take exit 173.
- Turn West on Northgate Way.
- At Meridian Avenue North, turn right (North).
- Take the first left onto 115th Street.
- The main entrance will be on your right.
- The DBS Program is located in the Medical Office
- Building on the right side as you enter the campus.



NORTHWEST HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

Deep Brain Stimulation Program

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Northwest Hospital & Medical Center is a full-service, not-for-profit medical facility located in North Seattle. We are dedicated improving the health of our patients by providing personalized, quality care with compassion, dignity and respect.

Get Back to Living

A patient's guide to the treatment of Parkinson's disease, Essential Tremor and Dystonia.



NORTHWEST HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER

Deep Brain Stimulation Program

Deep Brain Stimulation

Deep Brain Stimulation, also known as DBS, is the most advanced and effective surgical treatment available to help people suffering from Parkinson's disease, Essential Tremor and Dystonia. While there is no known cure for these neurological conditions, DBS can significantly reduce symptoms and improve a person's quality of life.

The Deep Brain Stimulation Program at Northwest Hospital is one of the most established and well-respected in the region.

ABOUT DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION

While the prospect of having an operation of any kind can create anxiety, it may be a relief to know that DBS Surgery is a straightforward procedure that is highly successful. It is a safe, straightforward procedure that has a high degree of success. The procedure is done in two stages, starting with the placement of a wire electrode called a lead into a precise target in the area of the brain that controls movement. About a week later, in an outpatient procedure, the lead is connected to a battery called a neurostimulator. This device is implanted just below the collarbone. It produces electrical pulses that are sent directly into the target in the brain, blocking the signals that cause abnormal movement, muscle tremor, stiffness, slowness and muscle contractions. The neurostimulator is programmed and can be adjusted as needed for optimum symptom control.

DECIDING ON DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION

DBS is recommended for Parkinson's patients who have had the disease for at least five years and have effectively managed their symptoms with medication in the past but are now experiencing:

- Increased tremors
- Stiffness
- Slowness
- Abrupt motor fluctuations
- Difficulty with walking or balance
- Medication-induced dyskinesias

Candidates should show no signs of dementia and have good family support. Age is not a criteria. Essential Tremor and Dystonia patients are considered on an individual basis.

ADVANTAGES OF DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION

- The procedure is entirely reversible and does not destroy brain tissue.
- Significant reduction in the occurrence of tremors, stiffness and slow muscle function.
- Reduction in medication-induced dyskinesia, motor fluctuations, gait disturbance and balance problems.
- Medication "on-time" typically increases and medication use decreases by as much as 50%.

- Essential Tremor patients can experience up to a 90% reduction in tremor, often with subsequent reduction or discontinuation or reduction of medication.
- Patients with Dystonia see significant improvement in involuntary muscle contraction.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION

Overall DBS is a safe procedure with minimal associated risk. The surgery carries the same risks associated with any other neurosurgical procedure including bleeding, infection and pain at the surgery sites. Your surgeon will provide you with more information about these and other risks that may be applicable to your specific situation.

Medical Director, Dr. Ronald Young is one of the most experienced DBS neurosurgeons in the country with more than 30 years of experience.

