

Neurology Scheduling

612-467-5027

Neurology Nurse Line

612-467-4251

Online Resources:

Essential Tremor Foundation

- <https://essentialtremor.org/>

Parkinson's Foundation

- www.Parkinson.org

PD Research, Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECC) Site

- www.parkinsons.va.gov

Minneapolis VA Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Program

- <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care/programs/parkinsons-disease-and-movement-disorders-program/>



Image of Dr McGovern (neurosurgeon) and Dr Schrock (neurologist) during a surgery.



Image of operating room staff with a Veteran prior to DBS surgery.

The Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) Program is brought to you by the Minneapolis VA's Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Program

Compassionate care for Veterans with Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders

Minneapolis VA Health Care System
VAB 10-xxx (618) R 06/2023

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

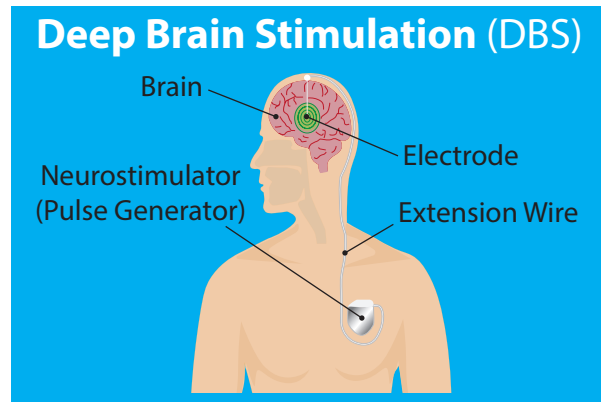
A surgical treatment option for Veterans with Movement Disorders offered through the Minneapolis VA Health Care System



Image of a Veteran performing a writing task with staff to test electrode placement during surgery.

What is Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)?

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is a neurological surgery that may be indicated as a treatment for certain movement disorders including Parkinson's Disease, essential tremor and dystonia. DBS is a way to treat some of the symptoms of these disorders to improve quality of life.



How does DBS work?

The **pulse generator** sends electrical signals through a **wire** to an **electrode** implanted in the **brain** to help improve symptoms.



Image of a computer screen with brain images in the operating room.

Good candidates for DBS typically:

- Are prepared to invest a significant amount of time, energy, and travel for both pre- and post-operative appointments at the Minneapolis VA
- Can tolerate surgery well
- Do not have significant changes in cognition
- Have a good support network of family and friends who can be involved in learning about the DBS system and process
- For those with Parkinson's, demonstrate a good response to levodopa

What does the work-up process for DBS involve?

- Consultation with a movement disorders neurologist
- Completion of objective testing and video taping
- Completion of neuropsychological testing
- Completion of a brain MRI
- Consultation with a neurosurgeon
- These visits typically happen over the course of 2-3 months, each with face to face visits at the Minneapolis VA.
- After the work-up process is complete, the team meets to determine if you are a good candidate for DBS.
- If you are a good candidate, you will be offered a surgery date. You can decide with your loved ones if you wish to proceed with surgery.

What type of follow-up is involved after getting DBS?

- Several visits after surgery for post-operative monitoring and programming of your DBS device.
- A minimum of yearly visits thereafter for follow-up assessments and monitoring.

I'm interested, what do I do now?

It is important to gather as much information as possible about DBS so you can decide if it is the right treatment for you. You can learn more about DBS by:

- Talking with your neurologist
- Gathering information, reading and educating yourself about DBS through reliable sources (see back for resources)

Watching this webinar: bit.ly/vadbs



Image of Dr McGovern (neurosurgeon) placing the headframe on a Veteran prior to surgery.