



POSTOPERATIVE INFORMATION: Deep Brain Stimulation

STAGE I and II

Wounds:

When you are discharged from the hospital after the first operation (pulse generator and fiducial implantation) will have a dressing over the battery site. This can be removed in 2 days. The incisions for the fiducials will be closed with absorbable sutures. There is usually a palpable “lump” behind one of your ears. These are the connections for the pulse. The “lump” will not be prominent after Stage II. Keep all the wounds dry between Stage I and II surgeries.

Activity:

When you get home please rest the day. If you have Parkinson’s Disease you may notice you may not need as much medication after the lead implantation. Please resume your medications but keep in contact with your neurologist or neurosurgeon if you feel you need some advice. Do not make any dramatic changes without consulting your neurologist. Tremor symptoms do not improve until the IPG is activated. You may walk, but no driving or vigorous physical activity. You may resume your normal diet.

Postoperative Discomfort:

It is common to have pain after any surgery. You may experience confusion or disorientation. This is not uncommon after any brain surgery. You may call the office if you or your care-givers have concerns. The discomfort after the lead implantation is much less than the discomfort after placement of the battery and extensions. This stage requires tunneling the extension cables under the skin to establish the DBS lead connections done at lead implantation. This can cause pain in the neck, shoulder and head. We will supply pain medication for the discomfort.

If you have any excessive swelling, pain or other symptoms you are concerned about, please call us.

Postoperative Appointments:

Be sure that you have called your programming neurologist for a programming visit. The brain is not ready for programming until 3 or more weeks after the lead implantation. If you have not established an “initial programming” appointment, once you get home call your neurologist for this appointment.

Additional Therapy:

Physical therapy or speech therapy is not always needed after DBS. If required this is often set up by the neurologist. You will maintain on some antibiotics that should last from one surgery to the next. Please take these antibiotics unless you develop a reaction or allergy. Should this occur call the office immediately.

Questions:

Asking questions is the best way to get information. Please feel free to ask questions about the surgery and what was done. We will try to explain in the best way we can to help you understand what your problem was, how it was treated and what you should expect.