

Activa® Deep Brain Stimulation

Control Therapy for Essential Tremor

What is essential tremor? How is it treated?

Essential tremor (ET) is one of the most common movement disorders. It results in uncontrollable shaking, affecting both sides of the body. Most patients see the majority of shaking in their arms and/or hands. Shaking can also occur in the head, voice, legs, or trunk. Generally, a person's daily activities are adversely affected, such as eating, drinking, and writing.

Currently there is no cure for ET. Certain medications can provide symptom relief. Depending on the severity of ET, medications may sometimes need to be taken in high dosages. Not only can medications create adverse side effects, they can also become a financial burden to some patients.

What is Active Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)? How does it work?

Activa DBS is a surgical treatment that has been proven to reduce the severity of the tremor in a patient associated with ET.

DBS involves the placement of a medical device and a thin insulated wire, (often referred to as a "lead") completely inside the body. The medical device is similar looking to a cardiac pacemaker. The device is implanted in the chest, beneath the skin, while the lead is implanted within the brain. Electrical stimulation is sent to the specific areas of the brain that control movement to function better.

Is this a permanent procedure?

No. DBS can be reversed. It can also be adjusted, to meet the need of symptom control. If necessary, the DBS system can be deactivated or removed.

**For more information about Deep Brain Stimulation, please consult our office. Dr. Paul and his staff would be happy to answer any questions you may have. **