

Activa® Deep Brain Stimulation

Control Therapy for Parkinson's Disease

What is Parkinson's disease? How is it treated?

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is an illness of the brain, commonly seen in people over 50. Certain cells in the brain are responsible for producing dopamine, and with Parkinson's disease, these specific brain cells die. This results in a loss in motor control.

Currently there is no cure for PD. Medications can help improve motor function, however, as the disease progresses, medication levels generally need to be increased. Additionally, these medications can cause adverse side effects. Medications 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 symptoms of Parkinson's disease. These symptoms include:

- Rigidity: stiffness or inflexibility of joints and/or limbs
- Bradykinesia/ Akinesia: loss or slowness of movement
- Tremor: involuntary shaking of a limb or the entire body

DBS involves the placement of a medical device and thin insulated wires, (often referred to as "leads") 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 leads are 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. **