Many patients experience life-changing results with DBS therapy. When considering DBS, it is important to learn as much as you can to make an informed decision. Your team of health care professionals will ultimately determine if you are a candidate for DBS, but to help guide your personal decision, here are important topics to consider.

1. **KNOW WHAT DBS IS AND HOW IT WORKS**
   Deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery is commonly used to treat symptoms of Parkinson’s disease (PD) and essential tremor (ET). DBS uses electrical signals targeting specific areas in the brain to control movement disorder symptoms. The device can be removed and stimulation can be changed or stopped at any time.

2. **UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS**
   DBS therapy can manage the symptoms of PD and ET, helping you get back to the everyday activities you enjoy.

3. **UNDERSTAND THE RISKS**
   Any surgical procedure entails risks.* Ask your doctor to talk about the risks of deep brain stimulation surgery.

4. **FIND OUT WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT DBS**
   Ask your movement disorder specialist or neurologist about DBS patient support groups to learn about other people’s experiences with DBS surgery.
PD and ET are progressive diseases. Symptoms can get worse over time. The right time for DBS could be when medications are not providing as much relief as they once did. If you are experiencing worsening symptoms or side effects from medication, now might be the time to consider DBS.

“It’s unbelievable ... I can walk, I can go an entire day without shaking. I can do household chores, I can drive, I can cook again, I can clean again (although I don’t want to), I can go out with friends.”

LINDA, FORMER TEACHER AND PARKINSON’S PATIENT FROM EMERSON, NEW JERSEY

“I was to the point where I couldn’t even write my name ... within an hour after having surgery done, I could write it, and it was such a great feeling.”

CHARLENE, A DESIGNER AND ESSENTIAL TREMOR PATIENT FROM LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK


“As with any surgery or therapy, deep brain stimulation has risks and complications. Most side effects of deep brain stimulation surgery are temporary and are resolved within the first few months. However, some complications can be more serious or permanent. Some people may experience lasting, stroke-like symptoms, such as weakness, numbness, problems with vision or slurred speech. In the event that side effects are intolerable or you are not satisfied with the therapy, the DBS system can be turned off or surgically removed. Risks of brain surgery may include serious complications such as coma, bleeding inside the brain, paralysis, seizure and infection. Some of these may be fatal.

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Rx Only
Brief Summary: Prior to using these devices, please review the User’s Guide for a complete listing of indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, potential adverse events, and directions for use.

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