



• Zachary T Levine, MD FAANS • Jay W Rhee, MD •

POSTOPERATIVE INFORMATION: Deep Brain Stimulation

STAGE I and II

Wounds:

When you are discharged from the hospital after Stage I (DBS lead implantation), your dressings should be removed. The incision(s) at the top of the head will be closed with absorbable sutures. There will be one or two additional incisions toward the back of the head behind one or both ears. This incision is closed with staples and there is usually a palpable “lump” there. These are the incisions that will be opened to connect the DBS lead to the battery pack or implantable pulse generator (IPG). 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. You just had brain surgery and you need the rest. If you have Parkinson’s Disease you may notice you may not need as much medication. 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 Stage I is much less than the discomfort after Stage II. The second stage surgery requires tunneling the extension cables under the skin to the DBS leads. 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 Stage I surgery. Once you get home call your neurologist for this appointment. Be sure to stay in contact with the hospital and our office about the time for your Stage II surgery.

MAIN OFFICE
3202 Tower Oaks Blvd Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852
T 301-718-9611 F 301-718-2979

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.

Thank you,

National Capital Neurosurgery Staff
(301) 718.9611
www.brainsurgery.com