



CONTRAINDICATIONS/PRECAUTIONS WITH DEEP BRAIN STIMULATORS

Please note that this is a partial list of contraindications and precautions. If your question is not addressed in this form, please see the footnote below.

- Diathermy – short-wave diathermy and microwave diathermy are not to be used on patients with a deep brain stimulator (DBS). Energy from diathermy can be transferred through the implanted system and can cause tissue damage at the location of the implanted electrodes, resulting in severe injury or death. Diathermy can also damage the neurostimulator system components resulting in loss of therapy. Injury or damage can occur during diathermy treatment whether the DBS is turned “on” or “off.”
- Therapeutic ultrasound, electrolysis, radiation therapy, and electrocautery also should not be used directly over the implant site.
- Diagnostic x-rays do not cause a problem, but some, such as mammograms, that require tight enclosure of the area where your DBS is implanted, may require additional adjustment of the x-ray equipment.
- Tell your dentist where your DBS is implanted, so he or she can take precautions with dental drills and ultrasonic probes used to clean your teeth. These devices should not be used directly over the implant site.
- Patients should not be exposed to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) using a full body transmit radio-frequency (RF) coil, a receive-only head coil, or a head transmit coil that extends over the chest area. Performing MRI with this equipment can cause serious and permanent injury including coma, paralysis, and death. MRI of the head can be performed under specific guidelines. Please call Northwest Neurological if a MRI of the head is required. Your device will need to be turned off and set at a voltage of 0.0, which can only be done with a programmer used in the office. After the scan is completed, you will need to return to the office to have your device reprogrammed.
- If cautery is used in surgical procedures, it is recommended that bipolar cautery be used if possible.
- If you are going to have surgery, please contact the office to see if your device will need to be turned off and set at a voltage of 0.0.
- The electrical discharges from defibrillators may damage the DBS device.

****Please inform all providers that you have a deep brain stimulator. Any time you have a procedure you need to make sure the provider caring for you is aware you have a DBS device and that the procedure being performed is safe with your device. If you or your provider is unsure if the procedure is safe either contact Northwest Neurological or Medtronic Neurological at 1-800-328-0810.**

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