

Deep Brain Stimulator (DBS) Precautions

Inform all health care providers that you have a deep brain stimulator (**DBS**). Always carry your DBS ID card on you. You may also want to wear a medical alert bracelet that says you have a neurostimulator.

Medical Tests: Turn the DBS **OFF** for these tests:

- X-rays
- CT Scans
- Diagnostic Ultrasounds
- Mammograms
- ECGs

MRI Scans: MRI can only be done with certain DBS systems. Please contact the DBS clinic if an MRI is ordered for you to find out if your system is MRI safe.

Dental Care: Turn your DBS **OFF** for dental drilling, x-rays, or ultrasonic cleaning. These devices should not be used over the DBS chest battery area. Antibiotic treatment is needed for dental work below the gum line. Have the dentist call the clinic if they have questions.

Travel and Security: Let security know you have a DBS. Ask for a “pat down” check instead of going through the security gate. You may need to show your DBS ID card to the staff. Always bring your remote control with you when you travel.

Surgery: If you need surgery have the surgeon call the DBS Clinic or Dr. Honey’s office. Your DBS may need to be turned off. **Cautery** devices that control bleeding during surgery need special settings with DBS.

Activity: Avoid activities that could result in a hit or blow to the head or the chest over the battery site. This includes sky diving, bungee jumping, and tackle sports.

Saunas/Hot tubs: Limit the time spent in these areas. If you notice heat around the battery site, leave right away.

Diathermy (heated ultrasound therapy): Diathermy must **NOT** be used with DBS. This is a method used in physiotherapy where deep heating of tissues is carried out by electrical current. These treatments can cause damage to the DBS and your body as they heat up the DBS wires. Damage can occur whether the DBS is turned on or off.

Magnetic fields: Be aware that power generators, power lines, store theft detectors, etc. can cause the DBS to switch off but will not harm the DBS. If you feel a change in symptoms after being near these, check your DBS to be sure it did not get turned off.

*If you have any questions about DBS and safety, please call the DBS Clinic.

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