What is tDCS, and why use it?

Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) is a safe technique in which low-level currents are applied to the scalp through soft sponges to help improve brain function. Numerous studies have shown that tDCS may improve mental and physical function in younger and older adults.

Our study seeks to determine the effectiveness of tDCS as a therapeutic strategy for adults who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. We are particularly interested in the effects of tDCS on walking, balance and mental function in this population.

Institute for Aging Research
Hebrew SeniorLife

Affiliated with Harvard Medical School

The PD-STIM Study

Principal Investigators:

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Project Coordinators:
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The PD-STIM Study is funded by:

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

The PD-STIM Study

Assessing the effects of transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) on movement in adults with Parkinson's Disease.

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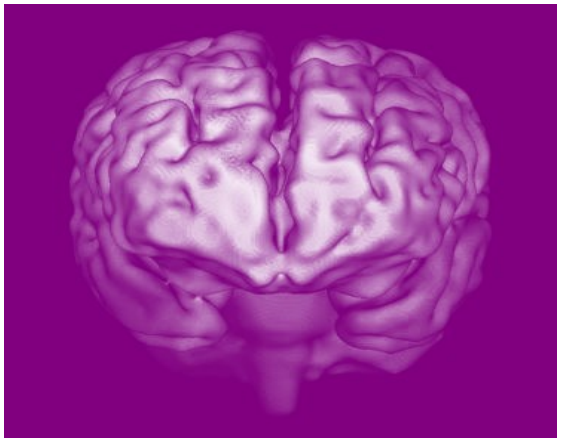

Who is eligible for the study?

You may be eligible if you:

- Are between 40 and 90 years old
- Have a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease
- Experience walking difficulties, including "Freezing of Gait"
- Are able to speak, read, and write in English
- Are able to walk independently
- Are willing to complete a 2-week intervention plus weekly follow up sessions for a total of 20 visits over approximately 14 weeks

Intervention and Measures

Intervention

- Ten, 20-minute sessions of tDCS over 2 weeks, plus weekly "booster" stimulation sessions for 5 weeks
- 50/50 chance (like a coin flip) of receiving real or sham (i.e. placebo) intervention
- You will not be aware of your intervention assignment

Measures

- Physical and mental health questionnaires
- Mobility and mental assessments
- Activity monitor, taken home for 4 separate week-long periods

Who is conducting the research study?

The PD-STIM Study is being carried out by Drs. Brad Manor and Lewis Lipsitz within the Clinical Research Laboratory at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Roslindale, MA. This study is supported by a research grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Transportation and Stipend

Participation is paid up to $500. Parking is provided. Other travel arrangements may be accommodated.

Questions?

Please feel free to contact our Project Coordinators, Arunima Awale or Rachel Harrison, by phone at
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