BE PREPARED: ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE DBS

Questions to ask your DBS Neurologist
1. Am I a fair, good or excellent candidate?
2. What is involved in the evaluation?
3. Who is on the team?
4. When is the right time for DBS?
5. What are the alternatives to DBS?
6. Will I be able to reduce my medications and how much?
7. What will improve after surgery and how long will it take?
8. How many appointments will it take to finish the adjustments?
9. What is your experience with surgical complications and rates?
10. Will DBS limit my opportunities to participate in research?
11. Who are the top surgeons in my area with great results?
12. Which of my symptoms are not at all likely to improve?
13. What is your preferred neurostimulator battery and why?
14. Do you prefer I have one or both sides of my brain implanted?
15. How many patients do you have with DBS?
16. Who will be adjusting my stimulation settings?
17. When should my neurostimulator be turned on after surgery?
18. Do you have a preference of surgical technique?
19. What brain target will help my symptoms the most and why?
20. Will you see me in the hospital if I have a surgical complication?

Questions to ask your programmer
1. How long do you like to wait to turn on the stimulation?
2. How long will the programming appointments last?
3. Is DBS the focus of your practice?
4. Who supervises if you are not an MD, PA or NP?
5. How many patients have you programmed?
6. How many different brain targets have you programmed?
7. Which of my symptoms will improve with stimulation?
8. How many sessions does it take to reach optimal settings?
9. Where did you receive your training to adjust the stimulation?
10. What do you do if the stimulation doesn't work as expected?
11. Do you have any concerns about my risk during surgery?
12. What do you do if stimulation doesn't work out for me?
13. Who can see me if you are not available?
14. If I have a problem, how long does it take to see you?
15. Who do I call if I have a questions or problem with stimulation?
BE PREPARED: ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE DBS
(CONTINUED)

Questions to ask your DBS Neurosurgeon
1. Who is on your team and who will be in the operating room?
2. How long until the surgery can be scheduled?
3. How many trips will I have to make to your office or hospital?
4. What are the steps involved in the surgical process?
5. How long does your typical surgery last?
6. How many people have you implanted with STN, GPi or Vim?
7. What are your complication percentages?
8. Have any of your patients died within a few days of having DBS?
9. What percentage of improvement is average for your patients?
10. Who do I call if I have problems after surgery?
11. How many of your patients required repositioning of the wire?
12. How long have you been doing DBS surgery?
13. Where did you receive your training to do DBS surgery?
14. Who do you recommend to adjust the stimulation after surgery?
15. Which surgeon do you recommend if I want a second opinion?
16. How much time during the surgery will I be asleep or awake?
17. Will you use MRI or CT, frame or frameless technique?
18. When is the neurostimulator implanted?
19. How long has your preferred surgical technique been approved, tested, researched or proven to be the most effective technique in assuring that I will have the best possible outcome?

Questions to ask yourself
1. What do I really want to make better with DBS?
2. Which of my symptoms respond to my PD medications?
3. Will improving these symptoms justify the risk of surgery?
4. Can I make it to the required programming appointments?
5. Does my lifestyle allow for living with implanted hardware?
6. How many patients have I talked to that have DBS?
7. Were they happy with their decision to have DBS?
8. Is my family supportive with my decision to have DBS?
9. Do I have mood problems that may increase my risks?
10. Do I have any hallucinations that I haven't told my doctor?
11. Can I deal with a significant improvement in my symptoms?
BE PREPARED: ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE DBS (CONTINUED)

12. I have had opportunity to ask all my questions about DBS?
13. I feel absolutely confident I am making the right decision?
14. I have chosen the right DBS team for me?
15. I understand my walking, balance or thinking could get worse?
16. I could have a serious complications and I have discussed this with my doctor?

NOTES: