



An Improved Method of Deep Brain Stimulation for the Treatment of Parkinson's Disease

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CONTACT

Donna M. Cyr
cyr@tia.ucsb.edu
tel: .

INVENTORS

- ▶ Moehlis, Jeff
- ▶ Wilson, Daniel

OTHER INFORMATION

KEYWORDS

Parkinsons, deep brain
stimulation, pacemaker,
indpharma, indansens

CATEGORIZED AS

- ▶ **Medical**
 - ▶ Devices
 - ▶ Disease: Central Nervous System

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

An improved method of deep brain stimulation (DBS) for people with Parkinson’s disease.

BACKGROUND

Parkinson’s disease affects an estimated 3-4 million people in the United States alone. A current FDA-approved treatment for Parkinson’s disease is deep brain stimulation (DBS), in which a neurosurgeon implants an electrode into the patient’s motor control region that periodically injects a high frequency, pulsatile electrical current. Some issues/dangers of pulsatile DBS are (i) The battery in the implanted stimulus must be replaced every few years, which is expensive and has surgical risks; (ii) The stimulus might affect other parts of the brain; and (iii) The neurons might adapt so that the treatment loses its effectiveness.

DESCRIPTION

Researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara have developed an improved method of deep brain stimulation (DBS) for people with Parkinson’s disease. Based on the hypothesis that DBS’s efficiency is directly related to its ability to desynchronize pathologically synchronized neurons, this method calculates the optimal DBS stimuli for desynchronization using weaker, non-pulsatile stimuli. This (i) allows the pacemaker battery to last longer, (ii) reduces the stimuli’s effect on other parts of the brain, and (iii) reduces the likelihood of adaptation by the neurons.

ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Longer pacemaker battery life
- ▶ Reduced risk of affecting other parts of the brain
- ▶ Continual efficiency by preventing adaptation

APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Parkinson’s treatment

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PATENT STATUS

Country	Type	Number	Dated	Case
United States Of America	Issued Patent	9,352,155	05/31/2016	2013-179

