Telemedicine for DBS

What is telemedicine?
Telemedicine is medical care you receive over a secure online connection. Usually, this is done by video. If you have used Skype or Google for video calls, you are already familiar with the basics.

OHSU has used telemedicine for many years to communicate with health care providers. You and your doctor can both use it to work with the OHSU movement disorders team.

If you live outside the Portland, Oregon, area, you might use telemedicine for some or all of your appointments before DBS. You might only travel to OHSU for surgery, or surgery and some appointments. You can also have care by telemedicine once your DBS is in place. For example, the DBS team can work with your doctor at home to program your stimulator.

What are the benefits of telemedicine?
Immediate care clinics and family doctors are using telemedicine for appointments. But OHSU is one of the few centers offering telemedicine for complex care like DBS. You benefit from:

• Easier access to specialists – even if you don't live nearby.
• Being able to stay at home for your care, with your own doctor involved.
• The video link lets your DBS specialist see you move, hear you speak and more – just like in a face to face appointment.
• You can talk to your specialist without making a trip – less travel, time and cost for you and your family.

The best DBS care, right where you live
OHSU's telemedicine program lets you have DBS surgery at one of the leading centers in the world, with less travel time and expense than in-person visits if you live outside the Portland area. Dr. Kim Burchiel did the first DBS surgery in the United States in 1991, and has been perfecting this procedure for 25 years.

DBS care by telemedicine can include:

• Appointments before and after surgery – Depending on your situation. You might need some of the appointments in person. For example, if you have Parkinson’s disease, you might need in-person physical therapy testing of your activity with and without medication (“on and off meds”).
• Recovery checks, checking after surgery and stimulator programming, all without traveling to OHSU.

Your community provider can also use telemedicine to consult with the DBS team or learn to program the DBS stimulator.

For more information on OHSU’s telemedicine network, visit [www.ohsu.edu/telemedicine](http://www.ohsu.edu/telemedicine).