Parkinson's disease patient DBS surgery journey map

Each Parkinson's disease patient is unique, as is their treatment plan. The guide below provides a general idea of the journey a typical DBS patient might experience.

1. Diagnosed with idiopathic Parkinson's disease

2. Significant quality-of-life impact
   Symptoms are no longer controlled adequately with medication

3. Consider deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery as an option and discuss with your neurologist

4. DBS candidacy evaluation* (typically requires one to two days)
   ✓ Confirm idiopathic PD diagnosis
   ✓ Cognitive function testing
   ✓ Physical therapy: motor testing while on medication (ex., Sinemet, L-dopa) and off medication
   ✓ Speech and/or swallowing evaluation
   ✓ Additional factors considered: comorbidities, age, degree of disability

*Some or all of these appointments may need to occur at OHSU with a movement disorders neurologist or neurological surgeon, if unable to be provided by your referring provider.

5. DBS surgery at OHSU
   Before surgery
   Preoperative visits with neurological surgery
   Receive medical clearance for procedure
   Brain imaging (under anesthesia if needed)
   
   Stage 1 DBS surgery
   Inpatient surgery
   Discharged the following day
   
   Stage 2 IPG implant surgery
   Takes place within 10 days of Stage 1 surgery
   Outpatient surgery
   Discharged the same day
   
   After surgery
   Within 1 month of Stage 2 surgery:
   Programming with OHSU or local neurologist

6. Follow-up appointments*
   ✓ Post surgery: neurology visit, ongoing programming adjustments/optimization
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   ✓ Six-month intervals: follow-up care visits

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