Parkinson’s patient DBS surgery journey map

Each Parkinson’s patient is unique, as is their treatment plan. The below detail is meant to be a useful guide, generalizing 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 surgery (DBS) as an option and discuss with your neurologist
4. DBS candidacy evaluation* (typically requires 1–2 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: co-morbidities, age, degree of disability

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

5. DBS surgery at OHSU

   **Local patients — Oregon and Southwest Washington**
   
   DAY 0
   Brain imaging (under anesthesia if needed), Pre-operative visit with neurosurgery, receive medical clearance for procedure*
   
   DAY 1
   DBS surgery, admitted as inpatient to OHSU
   
   DAY 2
   Recovery day in hospital, discharge
   
   DAYS 5 – 10
   Receive IPG with OHSU neurologist, discharged from hospital end of day
   
   DAY 30
   Wound check, initial stimulator programming with OHSU neurology
   
   *within a week prior to surgery

   **Traveling patients**
   
   DAY 0
   Arrive Portland, Oregon
   
   DAY 1
   Brain imaging under anesthesia (if needed)
   
   DAY 2
   Pre-operative visits with neuro-surgery, receive medical clearance for procedure
   
   DAY 3
   DBS surgery, admitted as inpatient to OHSU
   
   DAY 4
   Morning evaluation and discharge from OHSU before noon
   
   DAY 5
   IPG implant surgery as outpatient, discharged later in day
   
   DAYS 6 – 9
   Healing and recovery
   
   DAY 10
   Wound check and initial stimulator programming with OHSU neurology
   
   DAY 11
   Depart Portland for home

6. Follow-up appointments (in person or via telemedicine)*
   ✓ 30 days post surgery: neurology visit, ongoing programming adjustments/optimization
   ✓ 60 days post surgery: neurology visit, ongoing programming adjustments/optimization
   ✓ 90 days post surgery: neurology visit, ongoing programming adjustments/optimization
   ✓ 6 month intervals: follow-up care visits

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