

## DEEP BRAIN STIMULATOR- DEFINITIONS

**Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) has its own unique vocabulary.** The following are a few terms you will hear during your programming sessions:

- **LEAD:** This is the small wire in your brain kept in place with a small plastic cap (the bump you feel below your scalp). May also be called “**electrodes.**”
- **IPG (Implantable Pulse Generator):** This is the power source and is located in the chest. Some patients may have the IPG implanted in the abdomen. May also be called “**battery**” or “**generator.**”
- **PATIENT CONTROLLER:** This is a plastic device that looks like a remote control. It allows you to turn the DBS on or off, after it has been programmed. Newer generation devices provide options for the patient to make adjustments. May also be called “**patient programmer**” or “**hand-held programmer**”.
- **ANTENNAE:** This is a plastic device that is held over your IPG site and plugs into your patient controller to allow easier self-programming.

## FOUR PARAMETERS THAT CAN BE ADJUSTED FOR STIMULATION:

- **CONTACTS**—There are four metal contacts on the lead. One of four or all four may be chosen for stimulation. Also known as “**electrodes.**”
- **FREQUENCY**—The number of times in a second that the stimulation pulses.
- **PULSE WIDTH**—The duration in micro-seconds of each stimulation pulse.
- **VOLTAGE**—The main parameter used to control the intensity of the stimulation.

## REMINDER:

- **NO MRI** now that you have a DBS (*exceptions must be approved by Neurology*)! X-rays, CT scans & diagnostic ultrasound are allowed.
- **NO DIATHERMY** (therapeutic ultrasound used by some physical therapists and dentists).
- If in doubt, contact our office or Medtronic at 1.800.328.0810 or visit the website at: [www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com).
- Review ALL surgical procedures with Neurology in advance to ensure the procedure is done safely with regards to your DBS system.

**Meditation Video from Support Group 2/18/15:**  
<http://www.handsteady.com/relaxation-exercises/>