Surgical Treatment Methods in Movement Disorders: Mechanisms of Action and Indications

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ABSTRACT

Movement disorders display complex pathophysiologies. The first step in their management is medical treatment. However, if medical treatment is an inadequate or cannot be used because of side effects, surgical treatment should be considered. Surgery is used to treat essential tremors, Parkinson disease, and dystonia. There are two types of surgery currently available: lesioning and neurostimulation. A method called DBS is more preferable than lesioning because its outcomes are reversible and it has a low ratio of morbidity. However, conservative surgical approaches continue to be used for treating some movement disorders. This review discusses lesioning and neurostimulation in the treatment of movement disorders.

Keywords: Movement disorders, lesioning, DBS, tremor, parkinson disease, dystonia

Introduction and History

Movement disorders are characterized by changes in normal motility, tonus, and posture in a single or combined manner. They do not include motor paralysis, severe sensory loss, painful syndromes, or skeletal deformities. However, they may develop because of disorders of cerebral hemisphere, cerebellum, and metabolism and brain stem lesions. Movement disorders most commonly develop depending on the extrapyramidal system [basal ganglia (BG)] that is affected in the brain (1).

This disease group, which is also called as BG diseases, is caused by the abnormalities in the BG and related structures. The BG structures are shown in Table 1.

Although the physiopathologies of the conditions that lead to movement disorders maintain its complexity, several studies have been conducted to elucidate the anatomy and physiology of the BG. The BG, the main task of which is controlling, fine-tuning, and modulating response, has to receive information (afferent stimuli) from the areas to be controlled and fine-tuned and has to give information (efferent stimuli) to those areas for performing these functions. Most of the afferent inputs to the BG come from the frontal cortex. The main formation through which these afferent signals enter the BG is the striatum. The output gate of the information processed in the BG is also limited, and output signals are transmitted by the globus pallidus internus (GPi) and substantia nigra reticularis (SNr). Most of the efferent signals of the BG travel to the thalamus. In recent years, the internal organization of the skeletomotor circuit of the BG has been better understood. Accordingly, there are two subcircuits or pathways that function as opposite or complementary to each other - direct and indirect pathways. The signals entering the putamen from the cortex through the direct pathway bypass the BG and travel toward the exit gate, i.e., the GPi and SNr and return to the cortex via the thalamus. In the indirect pathway, the signals entering the putamen from the cortex move toward the exit gate, i.e., the GPi/SNr after passing through the intermediate stations of the globus pallidus externalis and subthalamic nucleus (STN), and they return to the cortex via the thalamus (1, 2).

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The first step in the approach to the treatment of movement disorders resulting from abnormalities in these pathways involves medical treatment. However, surgical treatment is needed for patients in whom this treatment is insufficient or in whom it cannot be applied because of the side effects. Two types of surgical options are available:conservative surgery (irreversible) and deep brain stimulation (DBS; reversible) (3).

The beginning of surgical treatments for movement disorders dates back to the early 1900s (4). These initial surgical procedures were performed as tremor therapy; postoperative complications, particularly those in which motor deficits occurred, were numerous. Spiegel et al (5) started using the stereotactic head frame system in the late 1940s, and eventually it became possible to focus on very small subcortical structures. Pallidotomy in Parkinson's disease (PD) was first attempted in 1952 by Narabayashi and Spiegel and Wycis (5, 6). In 1953, Cooper (7) observed that tremor in a patient was dramatically improved because of accidentally connecting the anterior choroidal artery during pedunculotomy. In 1955, Hassler reported that thalamotomy was more useful in the treatment of tremor (8). Svennilson et al (9) reported in 1960 that the lesioning procedures performed in the posterior area in pallidotomy were more effective than those performed in the anterior area. In 1963, some authors reported that subthalamotomy successfully treats tremors at a rate which is similar to that of thalamotomy (10). With the introduction of levodopa in PD in 1967, surgical procedures became less frequent (11). In drug-resistant tremors, the surgical treatment of movement disorders regained prominence with the reapplication of thalamotomy in the 1980s (12). Laitinen et al (13) reported in 1992 that posteroventral pallidotomy was useful in PD motor symptoms. However, for the last 20-30 years, surgeries have increased due to the limitations and motor side effects of longterm levodopa treatment. However, in recent years, because of surgical complications and treatment failures, non-destructive and non-ablative structures which are easy to adapt and reversible and subcortical, have replaced DBS lesioning surgery the functions of which have the potential for use in research. The opinion that high frequency stimulation founded by Benabid et al in 1987 often mimicked the effects of the lesioning surgery and was effective was reinforced by several studies. Although initially used for the treatment of movement disorders, it has recently been initiated in neuropsychiatry (14-16). In this review, we discuss the role of surgical treatment approaches in movement disorders.

Surgical Approaches

Conservative surgical methods are available for the treatment of movement disorders or for complications developing due to medical treatment. Treatment is possible by surgical intervention in the thalamus, STN, and GPi, which are among the deep brain structures. Conservative surgery continues to be performed particularly in the treatment of tremor and dystonia, despite being replaced by DBS in recent years because it is irreversible and has side effects (15-18).

Thalamotomy: It is performed in the cases of PD-induced tremor in which medical treatment-resistant tremor occurs as a main symptom as well as in the cases of essential tremor, Holmes tremor, multiple sclerosis-related tremor, and ischemic and post-traumatic tremor. In contrast, it may be rarely performed in generalized dystonia and PD-associated dystonia. Ventralis intermedius (VIM) nucleus is the target nucleus for tremor in the thalamus (17, 18).

A stereotactic frame is placed on the head, and the target coordinates are calculated using magnetic resonance imaging. In recent years, microelectrode recordings have reduced the complication rates of surgeries (19). Patients with PD should be "off" during the procedure, and the medical treatment that is used for PD should be discontinued one day before. Under local anesthesia, the selected electrode is placed in the target coordinates without the loss of consciousness in the patient. The electrode is connected to a radiofrequency (RF) device and the desired temperature and duration are adjusted. During this procedure, necrosis occurs at the center and edema occurs around the target area. When the electrode reaches the target, a temperature of 42-44°C is applied for 1 min, and temporary loss of function is created in the tissue. Whether the tremor has disappeared in the presence of tremor at this time as well as the findings, such as hemiparesis, hemihypoesthesia, and eye movement disorders should be evaluated. If tremor disappears without these side effects, a permanent lesion is created by performing the procedure at 80°C for 60 s in this area.

Postoperative computed tomography should be used to check the lesion area and whether it is hemorrhagic. The probability of bleeding after the procedure is less than 1%. Infection can occur rarely (3, 15). Complication is much rarer in unilateral thalamotomy and is usually not permanent. While the mortality rate in a case series was 2.7% in previous years, this rate decreased to 0.3% depending on the recent developments in surgical techniquesyears. However, since bilateral thalamotomy operations are reported to mostly cause aphasia and complications, including ataxia, motor deficit, cognitive deterioration, dysphagia, homonym hemianopsia, and facial paresis, it is no longer performed (20).

Thalamotomy was frequently performed in Parkinson's surgery. Nowadays, it is performed infrequently compared to pallidotomy and STN neurostimulation. Thalamotomy is performed mainly in tremor-dominant PD. It has been observed in selected cases that the disappearance of tremor causes recovery in daily life activities (21). Tremor may recur several months after the surgery at a rate of 4%–20%. Thalamotomy, however, provides cessation in tremor at a rate of 80% (18, 21). It is also known that thalamotomy provides a decrease in the UPDRS motor subscore probably because the lesion in the anterior part of the zona inserta or ventrolateral nucleus also partially decreases the rigidity in thalamotomy. However, nowadays, the role of thalamotomy is limited in the treatment of PD, and it is preferred only in the tremordominant patient group (21, 22).

Table 1. Basal ganglia structures					
1. Striatum	2. Globus pallidus externalis (GPe)	3. Substantia nigra	4. STN		
- Putamen	 Globus pallidus internus (GPi) 	• pars compacta (SNc)			
- Nucleus caudatus		• pars reticulata (SNr)			
- Ventral striatum					

Table 2. Relationship between the surgical application areas and indicated movement disorders						
Surgical application area	Essential tremor	Subthalamotomy	Pallidotomy			
indicated type of movement disorder	PD-induced tremor	• In the treatment of cardinal	Generalized dystonia, some			
	Holmes tremor	findings of PD that are	focal and segmental			
	Other causes of tremor	resistant to medical treatment	dystonia types			
		(Today, the application	Bradykinesia, rigidity in PD			
		areas are very limited)	 In apparent on-off fluctuations due to L-dopa, dyskinesias, and dystonia 			
PD: Parkinson's disease BG: Basal Ganglia						

Subthalamotomy: It is a lesioning procedure performed in the STN for the treatment of cardinal symptoms, such as bradykinesia and rigidity, when there is insufficient response to medical therapy in PD (17). The procedures in subthalamotomy are performed similar to those in thalamotomy. However, the STN coordinates are calculated as the target. The lesioning is performed at 80°C for 1 minute. After this procedure, stroke and hemiballismus can be seen. Subthalamotomy is now replaced by STN neurostimulation (3).

Pallidotomy: It is effective in generalized dystonia, bradykinesia in PD, rigidity, significant motor fluctuations, and levodopa-induced dyskinesias (18). The GPi is selected as the target. The above operations are also performed in pallidotomy. Because GPi is close to the optic tract, 2.5% of the patients experience visual field loss. Motor deficits can be observed because the lesion is close to the capsula interna. Speech may also be impaired in 8% of the patients. This temporary condition can be permanent in bilateral pallidotomy. At the same time, the bilateral pallidotomy has a higher risk of cognitive deterioration (3, 9, 23). In their study, Strutt et al reported that pallidotomy was effective on motor symptoms, but in their long-term follow-up, they detected mild impairment in verbal and motor processing rates, particularly in mental condition and verbal memory (24). Although the mechanism of action of pallidotomy is not completely known, the most important cause in etiopathogenesis may be the direct destruction of internal GPi segments, the interruption of the pallidofugal pathways, or the decrease in the stimuli to the medial pallidum (particularly from the STN) (25). To date, pallidotomy is preferred particularly in patients developing on-dyskinesia depending on levodopa rather than on cardinal findings of PD. The decrease in dyskinesia increases quality of life and facilitates the increase of levodopa dose. However, the efficacy is limited in those with a long off period (21, 26).

Partial well-being is observed for about 2–7 years in pallidotomy cases; however, bradykinesia eventually becomes apparent due to disease progression and STN-DBS is indicated in many cases. For this reason, STN neurostimulation can often be preferred over pallidotomy in clinical practice. However, pallidotomy is performed in selected cases because it delays the progression of the disease, is cheaper, and does not interfere with STN-DBS operation to be performed later (21).

The application areas of lesioning surgery and the types of movement disorders it is effective on are summarized in Table 2.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

General Features

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) also called as the neurostimulation surgery, which has been considered to be the fastest growing field of brain surgery in recent years, is widely used in many neuropsychiatric diseases (21-24).

DBS first originated when Spiegel and Wycis developed and described a stereotactic apparatus that could be used in ablative procedures in humans in 1947 and was used by Benabit and Pollac in 1987 as a treatment for tremor after many years of development. In 1991, it was introduced in literature as an alternative to the classical surgical treatment (27).

Tablo 3. Relationship between the DBS application areas and the indications, risks, advantages, and disadvantages in movement disorders

DBS Application Area Thalamic (VIM)		STN	Pallidal (GPi)		
Indicated type of	Essential tremor	First choice in PD that is	Generalized dystonia, some focal		
movement disorder	PD-induced tremor (effective especially in these two tremor types)	resistant to medical treatment (rigidity, bradykinesia)	and segmental dystonia typesBradykinesia, rigidity in PDIn apparent on-off fluctuations		
	Holmes tremor		due to levodopa, dyskinesias, and		
	Other causes of tremor		dystonia		
Risks	There may be side effects, such as ataxic gait, paresthesia, headache, and speech disorders, which can be improved by adjusting the stimulator	 Similar to VIM stimulation, there may be side effects that can be improved by adjusting the stimulator It may increase depressive mood 	Similar to VIM stimulation, there may be side effects that can be improved by adjusting the stimulator		
Advantages	Permanent complications do not occur as in thalamotomy	Complications of lesioning surgery are not seen	• Efficacy is not limited (7–8 years) as in pallidotomy		
	It is reversible	In recent years, it has been started for the treatment of tremor that is resistant to VIM stimulation	cognitive deterioration) due to		
		• It is reversible	do not occur		
			• It is reversible		
Disadvantages	Efficacy is limited in action tremor	High cost	The efficacy does not start		
	High cost	Ineffective in those with cognitive deterioration and even worsen cognition	immediately as DBS that is applied in other regions; it becomes completely efficient after 8-12 weeks on average • High cost		
DBS: Deep Brain Stimulation; STN: Subthalamic Nucleus; PD: Parkinson's disease; VIM: Ventral Intermedius Nucleus; GPi: Globus pallidus internus					

Today, DBS has been proven effective and is mostly used in movement disorders, PD, essential tremor, and dystonia (28). In recent years, it has also been used in the treatment of psychiatric disorders, such as major depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder, in some epilepsy patients, Tourette's syndrome, and in some Huntington's cases (28, 29).

Thalamic DBS for essential tremor and PD tremor was approved by the FDA in 1997; STN and GPi DBS were approved for PD treatment in 2003, for primary generalized and segmental dystonia in 2003, and for obsessive-compulsive disorder in 2009 (29-32).

Although the most frequently observed side effects of DBS are paresthesia, headache, dysarthria, gait disturbances, and ataxia, these side effects are often mild and can be corrected by adjusting the stimulation parameters (33). However, intracerebral lesions and infection are rarely observed (33). Infection rates vary between 1.7% and 4.5%, although they change in different clinics. Studies have shown that intracerebral hemorrhage rates are less than 1.5% (34-36).

Although having a low rate of morbidity and being reversible and effective are the biggest advantages of DBS, its high cost

seems to be the most important hurdle for it to become wide-spread. In a recent study, the DBS treatment was reported to cost \$20,000 in the US (37). However, there are opinions suggesting that the cost should be disregarded becaue of the fact that it increases the patient quality of life and decreases the future costs of treatment (38, 39).

Application Method

Similar to the surgical ablation method, the selected electrode is placed in the target coordinates under local anesthesia without loss of consciousness in the patient. After the localization of the coordinates during this placement is confirmed by macrostimulation or microstimulation and/or microelectrode recordings, a neurostimulator is placed on the chest or under clavicula, and the conduction between the electrode and the stimulator is provided by the cables. The stimulation is initiated on a regular basis during follow-ups, and neurostimulation is constantly performed at a fixed frequency after the efficacy and adverse effects association for the current symptom is established. The patient can switch on and off the stimulator with a button. The average life span of the battery of the first stimulators was 3–5 years, but the average life span of newly produced batteries is 9–10

years. When the battery is depleted, it is replaced under local anesthesia (28, 29).

Mechanism of action:

The mechanism of action of DBS, which has been proven to be effective in PD, has not been completely explained. Theories proposed in this regard have suggested more than one mechanism of action underlying the therapeutic effect. Although some general principles are mentioned in relation to the effects that occur during DBS, the location of the stimulation and the factors associated with the disease also affect the consequences (40). The theories suggested for the mechanism of action of DBS are as follows:

- a) Benabid et al. (41) suggested that electrical stimulation reduced basal firing in neurons and inhibited the spontaneous neuronal activity and the output activity in BG structures. According to this mechanism of action, which is called as depolarization blockade, the neuron cell bodies have the maximum firing rate, and stimulating these neurons with a stimulation that is higher than the maximum firing rate causes a continuous depolarization state and creates an ablation effect. The applications performed in the following areas are the examples for the mechanism of action that support the above theory and for the DBS applications that have been explained (42).
 - a. VIM: The stimulation of this pathway, projecting from the thalamus to the motor cortex, causes reduction in tremor.
 - b. STN: The stimulation of neurons projecting from STN to GPi/SNi pars reticulata causes the disappearance of PD signs, including tremor, rigidity, and bradykinesia.
 - c. GPi: The stimulation of neurons projecting to the motor thalamus reduces tremor, rigidity, and bradykinesia in PD. The stimulation of this region results in a delayed reduction in dystonia.
- b) Most studies show an excitatory activity spreading from the stimulated neuronal target tissue. This paradoxical situation is explained by the fact that axons have a lower stimulation threshold than the cell body (40). The examples given to the effects of DBS according to this theory are as follows (42):
 - a. Central caudal nucleus of the thalamus: The stimulation of this region causes persistent paresthesia.
 - b. Posterior limb of the internal capsule: Tetanic muscle contractions and spastic dysarthria.
 - c. Optic tract: Visual light flashes.
- Beyond these theories, there are also approaches suggesting that electrical stimulation disrupts pathological oscillatory patterns and forms an "informative lesion" by pre-

venting the transmission of the pathological BG activity. As a consequence of all of these, it is thought that DBS causes a rapid regulatory effect and corresponding activation of compensatory mechanisms, as well as subsequent changes related to synaptic plasticity and anatomical reorganization (43).

Rank in Movement Disorders

Tremor: Recently, thalamic (VIM nucleus) DBS has begun to replace thalamotomy in the treatment of tremor (28-30). The efficacy of thalamic DBS in essential tremor and PD tremor has been proven. The efficacy of DBS treatment is limited in the treatment of action tremor developing due to various etiologic factors (28). It has been reported in many studies that bath unilateral and bilateral VIM stimulation provide a 40%–80% reduction in tremor severity and provide an indirect increase in quality of life (44-47).

While no improvement is observed in 10% of patients with upper limb tremor despite adequate stimulation, an increase is seen again in tremor a year of the improvement in 15%–20% of the cases. It is unknown whether this is because of the progression of the disease or because of the development of tolerance to neurostimulation (48-50).

Although the stimulation is known to have side effects, such as ataxic gait, paresthesia, headache, and speech disorders, these side effects are usually mild and can be corrected by adjusting the stimulator (28).

In recent years, STN stimulation has gained importance as an alternative to VIM in the treatment of tremor. STN stimulation is important because it shows an efficacy equivalent to VIM, it is effective on intention tremor, and its side effects and tolerance are considered lower than VIM neurostimulation (51, 52) in tremor therapy.

However, studies on STN stimulation in tremor therapy are limited, and it is attempted in cases resistant to VIM stimulation in many clinics (53).

Parkinson's Disease: After the STN neurostimulation was first performed in 1980, GPi and VIM neurostimulation are performed along with STN neurostimulation for the symptoms of PD. In PD patients receiving oral levodopa, dyskinetic motor fluctuations, deterioration of PD symptoms despite the increase in medical treatment doses, and tolerance to levodopa develops within 5-15 years on an average. Despite optimal doses of levodopa, STN, and GPi neurostimulations are performed in patients with increased UPDRS motor scores and with levodopa complications. VIM neurostimulation is performed for the treatment in tremor-dominant patients (54, 55). Fasano et. al. (56, 57) and Castriot et al reported significant improvement in UP-DRS scores and in motor complications due to levodopa in PD patients whom they observed for 8-10 years after STN stimulation.

The effectiveness of DBS was indicated as "evident A" in literature with the support of other studies conducted in the following years (58).

STN stimulation is mostly performed in the major symptoms of PD. In a large study of 299 patients, Weaver et al showed that there was no significant difference between STN and GPi neurostimulation in terms of efficacy in the treatment of rigidity and bradykinesia in PD (59). However, in these and other studies, the need for levodopa after STN neurostimulation was found significantly less than that after GPi stimulation. Furthermore, the battery life was found longer and the stimulation current power was found lower in STN stimulation. In contrast, cognitive deterioration and depression were more frequent in STN stimulation (60, 61).

GPi is more effective in the treatment of levodopa-dependent dyskinesia and motor fluctuations (62, 63). VIM stimulation has not been found to be beneficial in the treatment of PD findings except for tremor and levodopa complications, and it is currently performed only in tremor-dominant PD cases (64, 65).

In recent years, there have been reports suggesting that neurostimulation in the pedunculopontine area is effective in the treatment of axial rigidity and freezing. However, more studies need to be conducted in this regard (66, 67).

The decision for DBS should definitely be made by a commission that includes neurosurgeons, neurologists specialized in movement disorders, anesthetists, and radiologists. The most important criterion for the selection of patients who are appropriate for DBS is good response to levodopa. The effectiveness of DBS is very limited and even doubtful in diseases progressing with the symptoms of Parkinsonism, except for idiopathic PD (68).

Except for the good response to levodopa, young age (<70 years); short duration of the disease; and the lack of apparent axial motor symptoms, dementia, psychiatric disease, and other comorbid diseases are the factors that increase the success of DBS (69-72).

While dementia is an exclusion criterion for DBS, mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is not a certain exclusion criterion. In contrast, after DBS, clinical pictures, such as increased cognitive deterioration, and particularly, the stabilization of verbal response are observed in cases with MCI. There are opinions suggesting that this deterioration develops depending on the surgical procedure (73, 74).

Psychiatric diseases are also not a definite exclusion criterion. However, there are studies that report that depressive mood is increased particularly after STN stimulation probably due to the decrease in dopamine uptake after stimulation (75, 76). However, impulse control disorder developing depending on the dopamine agonists regresses due to decreased dopamine uptake after STN stimulation (77, 78).

Therefore, in many clinics where DBS is performed, the stimulation procedure is not applied in patients aged >70 years and have cognitive deterioration and psychiatric disease.

Although there are many opinions regarding the timing of DBS, the traditional approach is that it should be planned in patients with motor fluctuations and dyskinesias and in whom UPDRS motor scores do not improve despite medical treatment. However, in recent years, there are opinions that argue on the application of early DBS. Furthermore, it has been reported that better responses may be obtained in patients who undergo early DBS because of their better response to levodopa. Meanwhile, they stated that patient quality of life would improve and that the possibility of motor and nonmotor complications would decrease (78, 79).

In the EARLYSTIM study, the UPDRS motor scores and quality of life were reported to have improved significantly after DBS in 251 early-stage PD cases (79).

In another study, however, it was noted that this study was not a homogeneous study involving PD cases. The reason for this is that the patients included in the EARLYSTIM study were young, had no dementia, psychiatric and comorbid diseases, and had high levodopa responses (53). Anti-Parkinsonian drugs should be discontinued prior to the operation to completely assess the efficacy of intraoperative stimulation in PD (28, 53).

In the treatment of PD, Gamma Knife radiosurgery, which is another surgical method, is applied in patients for whom RF surgery and DBS cannot be performed due to various chronic morbid diseases and oral anticoagulant use (80).

Gamma knife is applied to the VIM nucleus in a way similar to VIM neurostimulation in this method, which is preferred because it is noninvasive and has a much lower complication rate than DBS (81, 82).

There are publications showing that it is as effective as DBS in the treatment of Parkinson's tremor and essential tremor. However, the field of use of STN and GPi that are performed for the treatment of PD are limited because their efficacy is lower than the DBS procedure, and they are irreversible (80, 81).

Dystonia: Although the pallidotomy method that has been long used in the treatment of dystonia is still used today, DBS is used in many subtypes of dystonia (28). In the treatment of dystonia, bilateral GPi neurostimulation is performed in PD-induced dystonia and in generalized dystonia (32).

When assessed with the Burk–Fahn–Marsden Dystonia Rating Scale (BFMDRS), a scoring scale for dystonia, GPi neurostimulation provided an improvement between 60% and 85% in patients with generalized dystonia (82). While this rate of improvement was between 50% and 70% (83, 84) in patients with secondary (tardive) dystonia, a lower rate of 40%–50% was observed in patients with cervical dystonia (85).

Unlike PD and tremor, recovery in generalized dystonia patients who undergo DBS occurs gradually within weeks. Full activity usually resumes after 8–12 weeks (28, 33).

In recent years, there have been reports that GPi neurostimulation causes bradykinesia in patients with generalized dystonia; therefore, DBS has been introduced for the other basal ganglia structures in the treatment of dystonia. Nevertheless, more studies are needed in this regard (86, 87).

The relationship between DBS application areas and the indications, risks, advantages, and disadvantages is summarized in Table 3.

Conclusion

While the return to surgery in movement disorders has increased in recent years due to inadequate response to medical treatment and side effects, DBS has led to revolutionary developments in movement disorders as well as in other neuropsychiatric pictures in the last 15 years. Surgical treatment and DBS are performed in generalized dystonia and partial cervical dystonia in addition to essential tremor, Holmes tremor, and other tremor types. However, it is performed depending on inadequacy and complications of medical treatment in PD, which causes many pictures of movement disorders. Today, the types of surgical treatments are unilateral thalamotomy, pallidotomy, and neurostimulation (DBS). The neurostimulation method has been significantly updated in the last 10-15 years. In particular, bilateral STN-DBS provided a great opportunity for patients with predominant bradykinesia. However, thalamic DBS and thalamotomy are performed for essential tremor, PD-induced tremor, and other tremor reasons, and lesion based applications, such as GPi DBS and pallidotomy, are used for levodopa-induced on-dyskinesia and generalized dystonia. Despite the fact that DBS has been in the forefront in recent years, thalamotomy and pallidotomy are still used in selected patients.

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