PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A PARKINSON’S DISEASE STUDY

The Effect of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation of the Mouth Primary Motor Cortex on Parkinsonian Speech Dysfunction

Purpose of the Study: The purpose of this research study is to determine if repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS), a painless, non-surgical technique, can improve speech in people with Parkinson’s disease. TMS causes a flow of energy into brain tissue which stimulates brain cells within a defined area. The device that will be used is investigational which means it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for general use. The clinical study is being conducted at the Parkinson’s Disease Research Education and Clinical Center (PADRECC) at McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Richmond, VA.

Study Requirements: Veterans and non-veterans are eligible to participate in this study. Study participants will be required to get an MRI of the brain and then come to clinic, five days in a row for repetitive TMS treatment sessions. Non-veterans must have a brain MRI prior to enrollment. Each session lasts for approximately 15 minutes and involves applying strong magnetic field pulses over the scalp. These pulses penetrate the skull to a precise area of the brain. Subjects will have their speech evaluated before the therapy, three days after the last TMS session and then again approximately one month later. Subjects will also be asked to record 16 hours of their regular conversations before and after TMS therapy. Subjects will be randomly selected to receive TMS or a placebo.

The most common side effects of TMS include headache and neck pain. A clicking sound occurs when the current is passed through the stimulation coil. In the past, seizures, changes in memory, attention and other cognitive functions have occurred. These risks have been eliminated by adhering to strict safety guidelines which will be employed in this study.

Eligibility: Those interested in participating in this study must have a confirmed diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease with moderately impaired speech and must be on stable doses of their Parkinson’s disease medications throughout the length of the study. Those with ferromagnetic metallic implants, a history of seizures, head trauma, dementia, or psychosis are not eligible to participate.

Referral Information: Please contact the following for more information about the study:

Kathryn L. Holloway, M.D., Investigator
Miriam L. Hirsch, M.S., R.N., CCRC, Study Nurse Coordinator
PADRECC – McGuire VAMC
Phone: (804) 675-6284 Fax: (804) 675-5939
E-mail: miriam.hirsch@va.gov