

Study: Deep Brain Stimulation Slows Alzheimer's Decline

Patients with surgical implant retain functionality longer, improve quality of life

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The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE

ANCHOR LEAD

(PACKAGE START) -----

CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
:00 - :03

Shots of LaVonne and Tom looking at photo album

Closeup of LaVonne

CG: Tom Moore
Husband of Alzheimer's patient
LaVonne Moore

Shots of patient and Dr. Scharre

CG: Dr. Douglas Scharre

A PROMISING NEW THERAPY MAY SLOW THE PROGRESSION OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

COMING UP, HOW ELECTRICAL STIMULATION IS USED TO HELP PATIENTS KEEP THEIR INDEPENDENCE LONGER.

MORE THAN FIVE MILLION AMERICANS SUFFER FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE², AND UNTIL THERE IS A CURE, ALL THEIR LOVED ONES CAN DO IS CARE FOR THEM AS THE DISEASE RUNS ITS COURSE.

BUT NOW, A NEW STUDY¹ IS EXAMINING HOW ELECTRICALLY STIMULATING THE FRONTAL LOBES OF THE BRAIN CAN HELP SLOW THE PROGRESSION OF ALZHEIMER'S, GIVING PRECIOUS TIME BACK TO PATIENTS AND THEIR CARETAKERS.

BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS.

(Nats - Sound) :02

FOR 65 YEARS, LAVONNE AND TOM MOORE HAVE BEEN INSEPARABLE.

BUT WHEN LAVONNE BECAME INCREASINGLY FORGETFUL, THEIR DOCTOR CONFIRMED THEIR WORST FEARS. :08

"Yes, LaVonne, you have Alzheimer's, and we can't do anything about it. Well, that's not a satisfactory answer."
:05

FINALLY THEY MET DOCTOR DOUGLAS SCHARRE WHO ENROLLED LAVONNE IN A STUDY AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER.

UNLIKE MOST ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENTS, IT WASN'T FOCUSED ON IMPROVING MEMORY, BUT RATHER, FUNCTIONALITY. :14

"We don't have a lot to treat with problem solving, making

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Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	<i>the right decision, using good judgment, you know, planning skills.” :07</i>
Shots of surgery	SO IN A MEDICAL FIRST FOR ALZHEIMER’S TREATMENT, WIRES WERE SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO PATIENTS’ FRONTAL LOBES, THE REGION OF THE BRAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE TYPES OF EXECUTIVE AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS.
Animation of deep brain stimulation	THEN A BATTERY PACK IN THEIR CHEST SENDS ELECTRICAL CURRENTS THROUGH THE WIRES IN A PROCESS CALLED DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION. :14
Dr. Scharre (CG’d earlier)	<i>“They had increased focus, increased attention.” :03</i>
Shots of Dr. Scharre looking at brain scans	THE STUDY THAT PUBLISHED ONLINE IN THE JOURNAL OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE FOUND ALL THREE PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION SLOWED THE PROGRESSION OF THEIR SYMPTOMS. AND TWO OF THE THREE REGRESSED SIGNIFICANTLY SLOWER THAN A TYPICAL ALZHEIMER’S PATIENT WHEN COMPARED TO A MATCHED COMPARISON GROUP. :15
Shot of LaVonne playing piano	(nats of piano) :02 INCLUDING LAVONNE. :11
Tom Moore (CG’d earlier)	<i>“LaVonne has had Alzheimer’s probably longer than anybody else I know, and that sounds negative, but on the other hand, that’s good.” :07</i>
Shots of LaVonne playing piano	THREE AND A HALF YEARS LATER SHE’S STILL ABLE TO PLAY HER FAVORITE HYMNS, AND TOM SAYS HE’LL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO KEEP THE MUSIC GOING. :07
Shot of anniversary pictures	
Dr. Scharre (CG’d earlier)	<i>Many times that’s very important for patients to hold onto that as long as they can.” :06</i>
Tom Moore (CG’d earlier)	<i>“We will be together as long as possible....count on it. (LaVonne turns to Tom and laughs. “That’s the story.”) Yeah. :11</i>
Shots of Tom and LaVonne walking down hallway	AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03
(PACKAGE END) -----	
ANCHOR TAG	RESEARCHERS SAY THEY’RE ALSO EXPLORING NON-SURGICAL WAYS SUCH AS FOCUSED ULTRASOUND TO STIMULATE THE FRONTAL LOBE TO CREATE LESS-INVASIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS TO SLOW DOWN SYMPTOMS OF ALZHEIMER’S

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	DISEASE.
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SOCIAL MEDIA

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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dr. Douglas Scharre Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p>	<p>Dr. Scharre says the effects of DBS lasted a long time: <i>"This study was for at least 18 months, so this was a long-term study, not just sort of a brief window, so it had a prolonged effect on these patients."</i></p> <p>Dr. Scharre says using your brain helps with functionality: <i>"We always tell our patients, you know, use it or lose it. In other words, activate your brain, socialize, do puzzles, you know, be active."</i></p> <p>Dr. Scharre says DBS stimulates circuits that control behavior: <i>"The purpose would be help those circuits that modulate our behavior, modulate our focus and attention, modulate our problem solving abilities."</i></p> <p>Dr. Scharre says the frontal lobe controls functional tasks: <i>"Modulating the frontal circuits and the frontal networks for these behavioral and executive functionings is a very worthwhile endeavor to continue studying and to continue to do more research in that area."</i></p> <p>Dr. Scharre talks about the future of brain stimulation: <i>"We're also looking at other ways to modulate and stimulate and/or inhibit in the right areas in the right parts of the brain to help with the symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease."</i></p> <hr/> <p>Tom says he'll do anything to forestall LaVonne's decline: <i>"So we're doing anything and everything we possibly can to forestall the inevitable."</i></p>
<p>CG: Tom Moore Husband of Alzheimer's patient</p>	<p>Tom says LaVonne didn't want others to go through this: <i>"After she realized she had this and realized she was going downhill was, almost her words word for word, 'I will do anything to help others not go through what I am going through.'"</i></p>

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CG: Thomas Moore
Husband of Alzheimer's patient

Tom says LaVonne is doing well three years after surgery:
This was done in about 2014, and here we are three and a half years later, and she's doing pretty well."

References

¹*Deep Brain Stimulation of Frontal Lobe Networks to Treat Alzheimer's Disease*, **Journal of Alzheimer's Disease**, January 30, 2018. Online: <https://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-alzheimers-disease/jad170082>

²*Alzheimer's Disease Fact Sheet*, **National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health**, August, 2016. Online: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet>

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