

'Rewiring' The Brain: Novel Therapy Seeks To Improve Recovery After Stroke

Electrical nerve stimulation could help patients regain motor functions sooner

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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NEWS PACKAGE


SUGGESTED TEASE	PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A STROKE OFTEN FACE A LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY. COMING UP, A NEW CLINICAL TRIAL THAT COULD HELP THEM REGAIN FUNCTION FASTER. THAT'S NEXT IN HEALTH NEWS.
ANCHOR LEAD	STROKE IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES ¹ . FOR MANY, A STROKE AFFECTS THE MOBILITY OF THEIR ARMS AND HANDS, MAKING EVERYDAY, ROUTINE ACTIVITIES DIFFICULT. BUT THERE'S A NEW CLINICAL TRIAL THAT'S GIVING HOPE TO THE MORE THAN 800-THOUSAND AMERICANS WHO SUFFER STROKES EACH YEAR ¹ . BARB CONSIGLIO HAS MORE.
(PACKAGE START) ----- CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03 Shots of Ken picking up objects in rehab	(Nats of therapist - "You're going to pick one up and then put it in here." :02)
CG: Ken Meeks Stroke survivor	AFTER SURVIVING A STROKE, KEN MEEKS CONTINUES TO RECOVER, BUT SOME TASKS STILL TAKE LONGER THAN HE'D LIKE. :07
Shots of Ken cutting dough in rehab	"Nearly everything you do is a two-handed thing. You don't realize it." :05
Shots of implant surgery	LOSS OF MOTOR FUNCTION IS A COMMON SIDE EFFECT - ONE THAT CAN TAKE YEARS TO RECOVER. WHICH IS WHY EXPERTS AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER ARE TESTING A NEW APPROACH TO STROKE THERAPY, USING AN IMPLANTED DEVICE TO HELP REWIRE CIRCUITS IN THE BRAIN. :12
CG: Dr. Marcie Bockbrader Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	"The idea is to combine this brain pacing with normal rehabilitation therapies and see if patients who've been through all of the other usual therapies after a stroke can get even better." :12

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<p>Shots of Dr. Bockbrader in office</p> <p>Shot of therapist adjusting implant receiver</p> <p>Shots of Ken flipping cards in rehab</p> <p>Dr. Bockbrader (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Ken flipping cards in rehab</p> <p>Closeup of therapist pressing the button</p> <p>Graphic to show how the nerve sends the pulse to the brain</p> <p>Shots of Ken doing rehab exercise</p> <p>Shots of Ken opening bottle of wine with wife</p> <p>Ken Meeks (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Ken and wife drinking wine</p> <p>(PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>DR. MARCIE BOCKBRADER (bock-BRAID-er) IS LEADING THE STUDY WITH THE VIVISTIM VAGUS NERVE STIMULATOR. SHE SAYS THE NERVE STIMULATION IS LIKE TURNING ON A SWITCH, MAKING THE PATIENT'S BRAIN MORE RECEPTIVE TO THERAPY. :08</p> <p><i>"What we're trying to do with this is rewire the brain so that it will allow people to use their bodies the way they used to." :07</i></p> <p>THE NOVEL THERAPY IS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRADITIONAL REHAB. WHEN AN EXERCISE IS PERFORMED CORRECTLY, THE THERAPIST PRESSES A BUTTON, DIRECTING THE DEVICE TO STIMULATE THE VAGUS NERVE - WHICH CARRIES INFORMATION FOR MOTOR FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE BODY². THIS SIGNALS THE BRAIN TO STORE THAT MOVEMENT TO MEMORY.</p> <p>THEN, PATIENTS ARE EVALUATED IN COMPARISON TO THEIR PRE-THERAPY SCORES. :14</p> <p><i>Nats of Ken talking to therapist - "I can do these faster, and I'm not quite as tired when I get home." :06</i></p> <p>BECAUSE THIS IS A CLINICAL TRIAL, KEN'S NOT SURE IF HE'S ACTUALLY GETTING THE STIMULATION OR NOT. BUT AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH THERAPY. :08</p> <p><i>"I truly believe, I still believe that it will be a help." :06</i></p> <p>AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :04</p> <hr/> <p>THE CLINICAL TRIAL WILL FOLLOW PATIENTS FOR AT LEAST A YEAR TO STUDY THEIR IMPROVEMENT. RESEARCHERS ARE HOPING THAT WHAT THEY LEARN WILL NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE HAD A STROKE, BUT THAT THEIR FINDINGS COULD ALSO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SPINAL CORD AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES.</p>
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SOCIAL MEDIA

<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p>	<p>Stroke is the leading cause of disability in the United States. How a new clinical trial at @OSUWexMed is helping patients recover sooner. http://bit.ly/211aSLY</p>
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 Suggested post:	<p>More than 800,000 people in the United States suffer a stroke every year. For many, it affects the ability to use their arms and hands. But a new clinical trial at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center is giving hope for a quicker recovery to the more than two-thirds of stroke patients who are left with a disability. http://bit.ly/2I1aSLY</p>
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EXTRA BITES

<p>CG: Dr. Marcie Bockbrader Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p>	<p>Bockbrader talks about the initial evaluations of VNS used in stroke patients :</p> <p><i>"In the chronic phase when people looked like they were done getting better, could be used to boost the effective therapy, so sort of supercharged therapy. People were once again in a state where they were able to change and recover more quickly through the use of this stimulation."</i></p> <p>Bockbrader talks about the purpose of the magnets to use with the electrical device:</p> <p><i>"That's why we give people magnets to use with their therapies and turn the system on to activate the brain so that when they go and do their occupational therapy to work on their hand function, the brain is really ready to make those new connections that happen when they do their therapy."</i></p> <p>Bockbrader talks about the benefits of the VNS treatment:</p> <p><i>"The benefits of VNS treatments, we think, are more efficient, better response to therapies. So we think that approximately 85% of the people who get this type of stimulation are likely to benefit from it."</i></p>
<p>CG: Ken Meeks Stroke survivor</p>	<p>Ken talks about what motivates him to keep going:</p> <p><i>"A driving force is very hard to find, but I believe that life only goes in one direction. You either lie down and stagnate, or you move forward. So I'm doing everything I can to move forward."</i></p> <p>Ken says losing motor function in his arm affected his daily life:</p> <p><i>"Your arms are part of your balance, and when you don't have this arm to move over there to stabilize you, it affects all of your walking, it affects your standing, let alone just making yourself a cup of coffee and getting sugar."</i></p>

References

<p>¹What is Stroke? National Stroke Association. Online: http://www.stroke.org/understand-stroke/what-stroke.</p> <p>²Everything you need to know about the vagus nerve. Medical News Today. Online: https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/318128.php</p>
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The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center: 1-800-293-5123

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Produced by:



1800 West 5th Ave.

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920

www.mediasourcetv.com

**Video content provided by: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Media Relations Department: (614) 293-3737**

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