General Information

What do you do with the information you collect?
Information from the assessments is used by your treatment team (Neurologist and Neurosurgeon) to help determine if surgery will be of benefit to you. The team will review results with you.

Do I need to bring anything?
Dress comfortably and bring reading glasses if you use them. As offices can sometimes get chilly, a sweater might be a good idea.

Want more information?
We will be happy to explain the procedures to you in detail and answer questions you may have. Call the main number of Neurology at 305-243-7099.

Cancellations and Rescheduling
As we have reserved a significant part of our day exclusively for you, we would appreciate you telling us if you are unable to make your appointment.

Your pre-surgical assessment

What is involved in the pre-surgical assessment?
This series of tests and procedures evaluates your current functioning to help determine if you will benefit from surgery to alleviate Parkinson's symptoms. These unobtrusive and painless procedures evaluate your physical, cognitive, and emotional condition.

There are two parts to the assessment. The neuropsychological evaluation assesses cognitive and emotional functioning. The UPDRS (United Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale) assesses physical functioning, ability to perform activities of daily living, and response to medication.

Together, these procedures provide the Parkinson's team with information that helps determine whether you would be likely to benefit from surgery. Several months following your surgery, we will repeat the procedures to measure changes in your symptoms and functional abilities.

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Parkinson’s Disease Assessment
Neuropsychological Testing & the UPDRS

Deep Brain Stimulation
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what is the UPDRS?
The UPDRS is a procedure used to measure your movements abilities and to assess your responses to medication.

Results are used to establish a baseline of performance to help your doctors gauge that effectiveness of medical or surgical treatments.

What will happened?
The testing is performed in two stages. We first assess your performance while “off” the medications you take for Parkinson’s disease and then we re-assess while you are “on” the medications.

You will be asked to answer questions and demonstrate a number of actions and movements.

After your initial portion is completed, the doctor will have you take your usual morning dose of medications, wait an ample amount of time, and then repeat the test. Comparisons are made between “on” and “off” states.

Should I take my medicines?
DO NOT take any of your Parkinson medications on the day of the testing. Stop taking medications in the early afternoon or evening of the night before you testing.

NO bedtime dose… BRING YOUR MEDICATIONS WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Neuropsychological Evaluation

What will happen during the evaluation?
The neuropsychologists will first conduct a careful interview. The testing of the evaluation is then carried out by a psychometrist who has specialized training in administration of the neuropsychological tests. You will be asked to answer questions, write a bit, perform calculations, solve problems, remember words and figures, copy designs, fill out questionnaires, and perform other similar tasks.

Does it hurt?
No. There are no painful or invasive procedure during the pre-operative testing.

Should I worried that I will be disqualified from surgery because of poor performance on those tests?
Probably not. Parkinson’s disease causes predictable deficits in certain areas of thinking.

We expect those deficits and will not disqualify you from surgery because of them. We are concerned only about those severe deficits that are outside of the range normally seen in Parkinson’s disease.

How long will it take?
Because we thoroughly study many aspects of the brain functioning, the evaluation can take several hours.

We typically schedule a whole morning or afternoon for each patient. On rare occasions, evaluations can take a whole day or more. Your evaluation will be scheduled for a half-day.

Your Medical Team:

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