

Switching to Vercise™ DBS made all the difference:

Bill D.'s DBS Story

For 69 year-old Bill Day, switching to the Boston Scientific Vercise DBS from his old DBS system made a world of difference.

He got his first DBS system about two and a half years after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. "My disease was progressing at a very rapid rate, and I felt I needed something more than a pharmaceutical solution." A former CPA and Chief Financial Officer of a hospital, he found that he couldn't open an envelope, type, or add up a column of numbers without making errors—not to mention the disruption of everyday activities of life like holding a fork, showering and shaving.



He went to see the neurosurgeon who had done back surgery on him several years earlier and was implanted with two generators—one to control the right side of his body, and one to control the left. He found the surgery to implant the leads in his brain to be "very simple. There was virtually no pain...and I was shocked at that!" Within six months of the surgery and adjustments, he was "probably about 80% back to what I considered normal."

"The battery [on my old DBS] was at End Of Service and all my symptoms of Parkinson's started returning. And that was a horrible feeling."* — Bill, on what it was like when his previous DBS system's battery reached end of life after less than two years

But the generators in his chest were "somewhat bulky and you could see them," and he still had some physical issues. "My voice was getting softer and softer, and family members would ask me to repeat what I had just said, because they didn't hear it. Eating certain foods would cause great difficulty in swallowing. I couldn't really lift my left arm, and sometimes I would choke so much, on the old system, that I'd almost crawl on the floor just to get over it."



After about eighteen months, he was at a family holiday party and "I noticed that I wasn't walking properly, that some of my [Parkinson's disease] symptoms were returning." He found out it was because the batteries in his two generators had reached their end of service—far earlier than the three to five years that he'd been told to expect.

"I had to get my primary care physician to schedule me for an evaluation so I could have outpatient surgery again, and

then I had lab work and psychological work...and [I realized that] if this keeps up, I'm going to have my Parkinson's completely return to me before I can have the batteries replaced. It was a horrible feeling."

"In those 15 years I [would have] had to have had outpatient surgeries [to replace the batteries], and I didn't want to go through that again."* — Bill, on why he chose Vercise DBS with its fifteen year rechargeable battery

A friend of his from an exercise group he belonged to had recently been implanted with a DBS at Bill's urging, and when Bill saw him post-implant, he couldn't believe his eyes. His friend had one generator, not two, and Bill couldn't even see where it was in his chest. "I'm looking at him and said, 'Did you really have the surgery?' My friend had this lightweight battery that really wasn't noticeable, and here [mine is] double the size, noticeable and heavier. My friend looked fantastic—I mean, you'd never know that he had the DBS, [except that now] his movements were really smooth." Bill asked him which DBS system he had, and his friend enthusiastically told him that it was Vercise™ DBS.



Bill asked his doctor if he was a candidate to switch to Vercise DBS, and he was. In addition to being able to remove the two bulkier generators and go down to one, more compact generator, he learned that the Vercise DBS battery was rechargeable and would last at least fifteen years.† "In those 15 years I [would have] had to have had seven or eight outpatient surgeries [to replace the batteries], and I didn't want to go through that again."

"They're really enjoying life. And so am I."*

After Bill had his Vercise DBS implanted, he was amazed by just the physical change alone. "Before, I had two bulging [generators]. The other night I was [in bed], I didn't feel anything in my chest. I didn't sense it was even there." But beyond that, there were all sorts of other surprises. "I didn't anticipate that there would be improvement in the voice, improvement in my left arm, improvement in swallowing, and no more choking. Now, I'm [really] back to what I was like before I had Parkinson's. It's like investing in a stock and then finding out that there's a bonus, and the stock dividends are coming in."

Bill and his wife Maria have three children and two granddaughters-Leah and Emma. When his granddaughters were born, he couldn't hold them in his arms because of his Parkinson's disease. "They'd ask me to go play with them and I couldn't." Even with his previous DBS system "I felt limited. Sometimes the girls would ask me, 'Grandpa, will you do this with us?' And I'd say, 'Well, I don't know.'"



"But now, with Vercise, I feel like I have that extra energy I can give to the kids. And rather than just sitting in a chair or at home, watching TV or reading, I'll go out in the yard and play with them. That's a joy that's indescribable. These are some of the best moments of my life."

As he watched his granddaughters playing in their favorite park, he was philosophical about it all. "This may not be a permanent solution, but it's given me a life that I didn't expect I'd have [again]. They're really enjoying life. And so am I."

*Battery life is dependent on the stimulation settings and conditions.

Results from case studies are not necessarily predictive of results in other cases. Results in other cases may vary.

Indications for Use: The Vercise™ Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) System is indicated for use in bilateral stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus (STN) as an adjunctive therapy in reducing some of the symptoms of moderate to advanced levodopa-responsive Parkinson's disease (PD) that are not adequately controlled with medication.

Contraindications: The Vercise DBS System is not recommended for patients who will be exposed to the following procedures: Diathermy as either a treatment for a medical condition or as part of a surgical procedure, Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). The safety of these therapies in patients implanted with the Vercise DBS System has not been established. Patients implanted with the Vercise DBS System should not have Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). The Vercise DBS System is not recommended for patients who are unable to operate the system or are poor surgical candidates or who experience unsuccessful test stimulation.

Warnings: Unauthorized modification to the medical devices is prohibited. You should not be exposed to high stimulation levels. High level of stimulation may damage brain tissue. Patients implanted with the Vercise DBS System may be at risk for intracranial hemorrhages (bleeding in the brain) during DBS lead placement. Strong electromagnetic fields, such as power generators, security screeners or theft detections systems, can potentially turn the stimulator off, or cause unpredictable changes in stimulation. The system should not be charged while sleeping. If you notice changes in mood or behavior or have thoughts of suicide contact your physician immediately. Chemical burns may result if the Vercise Stimulator housing is ruptured or pierced. The Deep Brain Stimulation System may interfere with the operation of implanted stimulation devices, such as cardiac pacemakers, implanted cardioverter defibrillators, or medication delivery pumps. Patients should operate motorized vehicles or potentially dangerous machinery with caution. It is unknown if the device may hurt an unborn baby. Your doctor may be able to provide additional information on the Boston Scientific Vercise DBS System. For complete indications for use, contraindications, warnings, precautions, and side effects, call 833-DBSINFO or 833-327-4636.

CAUTION: U.S. Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician

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