

A New Lease on Life:

Kenneth B.'s DBS Story

One of Kenneth Brown's great loves in life, besides his work as a pastor, is walking. Living in Arizona, he was able to walk daily—anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes. He also treasured his hikes in the Grand Canyon. "Before Parkinson's disease, I was able to walk all the way in to Phantom Ranch and back out again. 23 miles round trip."

A few months before his initial diagnosis, Kenneth suspected he had the disease and began to mentally prepare himself. When he finally got diagnosed, he knew how he was going to tackle it. He believed that succeeding with Parkinson's disease had to do with attitude more than anything. From the beginning, he would say, "I have Parkinson's disease, but Parkinson's disease does not get to control me." He wanted to go to Haiti to help people who had been affected by the hurricane, but others urged him not to go, warning him that if he had a medical problem, it would be difficult to have it addressed while there. He went anyway, and later that year, went to Nepal.



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But things began to get more difficult. "[As a pastor], I live a very public life, and I'd know people were staring at [the tremors in] my hands, and I'd worry about what they were thinking." His toes began to curl, and he found himself walking on his toes—painfully. He would often worry that he would fall.

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Kenneth first learned about DBS because the editor of his local newspaper had DBS surgery and wrote an article about it. "As soon as I read about it, I said 'That's what I want to do.'" He needed no further convincing.

He chose a Boston Scientific DBS system because of the device's fifteen-year lifespan.* "I had heard about people having three or four years and having to change the battery out, and I didn't want to keep getting cut open over and over again." He was confused, though, about how he would recharge the battery. "How do



you recharge something that's in your chest?" The doctor pulled out a collar put it around his neck, and said "Just like this. When you hear a triple beep it's done." "And I thought to myself, 'that's a piece of cake, I can do that.'"

His doctor also explained to him that Boston Scientific leads are unique because they have eight contact points in each lead, meaning that as his Parkinson's disease progresses, the device can be reprogrammed to accommodate his changing condition.

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When the device was turned on for the first time, Kenneth's tremors disappeared completely. "I had heard people talk about [it], but when you experience it for yourself... I don't know if you can imagine what it's like." Within a day or two, his toes were no longer curling, and he was no longer walking on his toes. He was also able come off the medication. "Before DBS, I was taking nine pills a day. Now, I don't take any medication whatsoever."



"Now that I've had DBS surgery, I believe my future is bright. I believe I've been given a new lease on life, and that's pretty exciting." First, he can get back to the work he loves. "I've wanted to preach, or stay active, at least until I'm 75 or 80. And I feel like that's possible now, so that's a dream come true." He feels confident that when he's having one-on-one conversation with the people in his congregation, "they're paying attention to me—not to what's wrong."

Kenneth also has a goal of hiking in the Grand Canyon again—to go all the way to Plateau Point, and back—13 miles round trip. "And if I'm able to do that, I'm going to feel like 'Parkinson's—you don't own me.'" He started physical therapy to work on regaining his full strength. "I feel confident that as soon as I get these quads back, I'm going to be back, and that's pretty exciting."

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

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