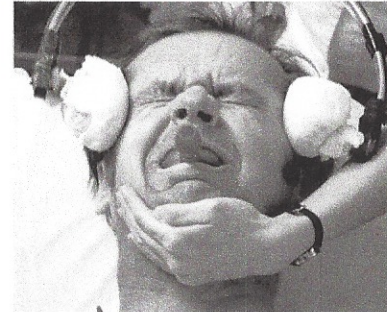
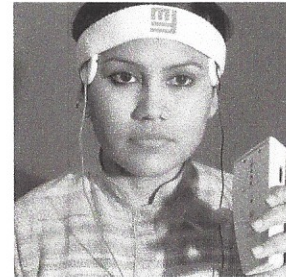


# History of Brain Stimulation Therapies

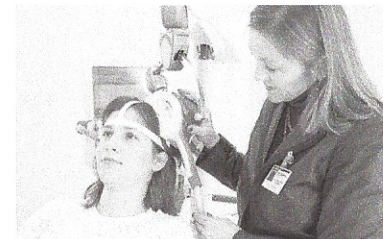
- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) 1938



- Cranial Electrotherapy (CES) 1972



- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)  
1985



# Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)

- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)- developed in 1938
- Used to treat major depressive disorder (MDD), mania, often as a last line of intervention.
- Anesthesia is delivered, electrodes are placed on the scalp (unilateral or bilateral)
- Electrical stimulus delivered at 1.5 times seizure threshold for bilateral and up to 12 times for unilateral
- Efficacy: Meta-analysis in 2012 indicated that overall remission rate for patients given a round of ECT treatment was 51.5% for unipolar depression, and 50.9% for bipolar depression
- MDD – mixed results:
  - 50% of patients relapse after ECT treatment followed by antidepressants, and twice as many relapse if only given ECT treatment
- ECT is viewed as the gold standard for catatonia

Dierckx et al., PMID 2012; 14(2):146-150; Jelovac et al. Neuropsychopharmacology 2013; 38(12):2467-74. Micallef-Trigona, *Depress Res Treat* 2014.

# ECT Efficacy

- Highest response/remission rates of any depression treatment
- Best data are for acute treatment
- Response often occurs after a few sessions
- High relapse rates following remission
- No clear evidence to support any particular medicine for maintaining response after ECT
- Best research suggests nortriptyline, lithium, venlafaxine

Sackeim HA et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2009;66(7):729-37;  
Sackeim HA et al. JAMA 2001;285(10):1299-307;  
Kellner CH et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2006;63(12):1337-44.

# ECT in Practice

- Acute course: typically 6–12 treatments; maximum generally 20
- Treatment should continue for 3 sessions after symptoms remit or plateau; relapse rates are higher if ECT is discontinued prematurely
- Frequency can influence memory effects; patients may not have sufficient time to recover prior to the next session
- Right unilateral may have fewer memory effects than bilateral
- Urgent situations (e.g., suicidality): bitemporal ECT
- Less severe situations: high-dose right unilateral ECT

Husain MM et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2004;65(4):485-91;  
Gelenberg AJ et al. APA; 2010. Available at <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines.aspx>;  
Blumberger DM et al. Curr Psychiatry Rep 2013;15(7):368.

# ECT: Mechanism of Action

- 80–95% of electrical activity is shunted by the skull and conducted by the CSF → widespread cortical and subcortical stimulation
- Small proportion of the electrical current is focused toward frontal cortex (therapeutic effects)
- Majority of the electrical current results in non-focal activation (adverse cognitive effects)
- Involves induction of generalized seizures with electrical current

Blumberger DM et al. *Curr Psychiatry Rep* 2013;15(7):368;  
Sackeim HA et al. *Convulsive Ther* 1994;10(2):93-123.

# Cranial Electrotherapy (CES)

- A noninvasive brain stimulation that applies a small, pulsed electric current across a person's head for the treatment of a variety of mental health conditions
- Low intensity electrical stimulation originated in studies of galvanic currents as early as 1794
- In 1972, a specific form of CES was developed by Dr. Margaret Patterson and called NeuroElectric Therapy (NET)
- Approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1976
- Electrodes placed on the ear lobes, maxilla-occipital junction, mastoid processes, or temples
- CES stimulation of 1mA (milliampere) has shown to reach the thalamic area at a radius of 13.30 mm.

# Cranial Electrotherapy (CES)

- Induces changes in EEG: Increases alpha relative power and decreases relative power in delta and beta frequencies
- In electromagnetic tomography and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) studies, CES has shown to reach cortical and subcortical areas of the brain
- CES treatments have been found to induce changes in neurohormones and neurotransmitters that have been implicated in psychiatric diseases
- Substantial increases in beta-endorphins, adrenocorticotrophic hormone, and serotonin
- Moderate increases in melatonin and norepinephrine
- Modest increases in cholinesterase, GABA, DHEA, and modest decreases in cortisol

## After One 20-minute CES Session: Mean Changes in Blood Plasma Levels

Neurochemical	Change	Implications
Beta endorphin	↑ 98%	Decreases pain
Adrenocorticotrophic hormone	↑ 75%	Promotes homeostasis
Serotonin (5HT)	↑ 50%	Improves mood Increases pain tolerance Decreases insomnia
Melatonin	↑ 25%	Induces sleep
Norepinephrine	↑ 24%	Increases pleasure Increases arousal
Cortisol	↑ 18%	Reduces stress response
Cholinesterase	↑ 8%	Increases relaxation
gamma-Aminobutyric acid	↑ * (percentage increase not stated)	Decreases spasticity
Dehydroepiandrosterone	↑ * (percentage increase not stated)	Improves immune system functioning

Kirsch et al. Psychiatr Clin N Am. 2013.36:169-176.

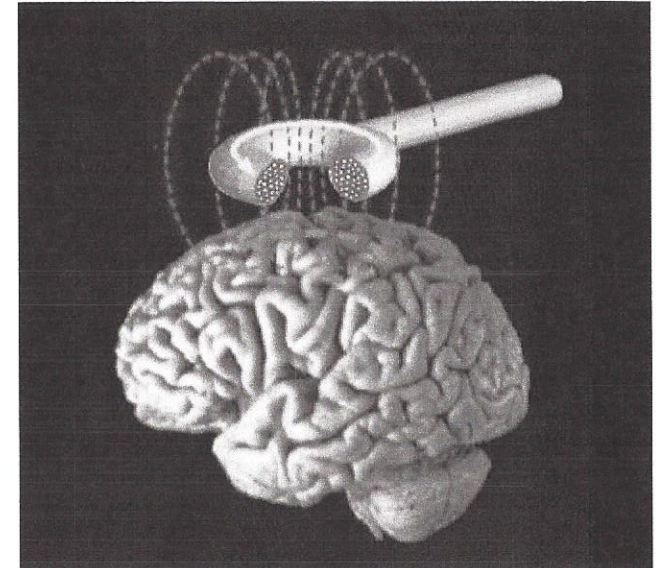


# CES Efficacy

- CES treatments are cumulative; however, most patients show some improvement after the first treatment
- Depression can take up to 3 weeks for initial response
- Insomnia varies widely (immediately–2 months into treatment)
- CES can also be used in conjunction with psychotherapy, medications, hypnosis, and biofeedback
- Side effects are mild and self-limiting: vertigo, skin irritation at electrode sites, and headaches

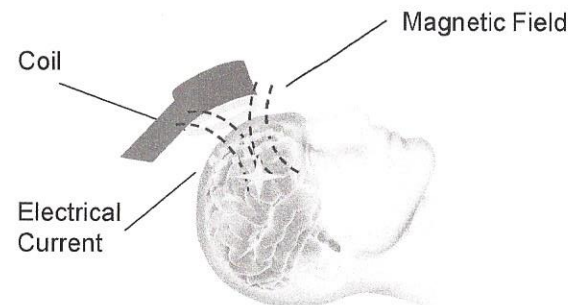
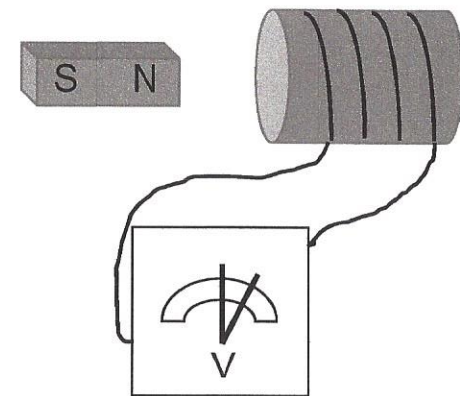
# Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

- TMS is a neurophysiological technique that allows for non-invasive stimulation of the human brain
- Can be combined with brain mapping methods (EEG, fMRI) to study brain plasticity
- Trains of TMS pulses, known as repetitive TMS (rTMS) transiently disrupt neuronal activity for periods exceeding stimulation duration
- Used to treat a variety of neuropsychiatric illnesses



# History of TMS

- Physical principles of TMS discovered in 1831 by Faraday
- Observed that a pulse of electric current passing through a wire coil generates a magnetic field
- The rate of change of this magnetic field determines the induction of a secondary current in a nearby conductor
- During TMS, the stimulating coil is held over the patient's head and produces an electrical current in the brain through electromagnetic induction

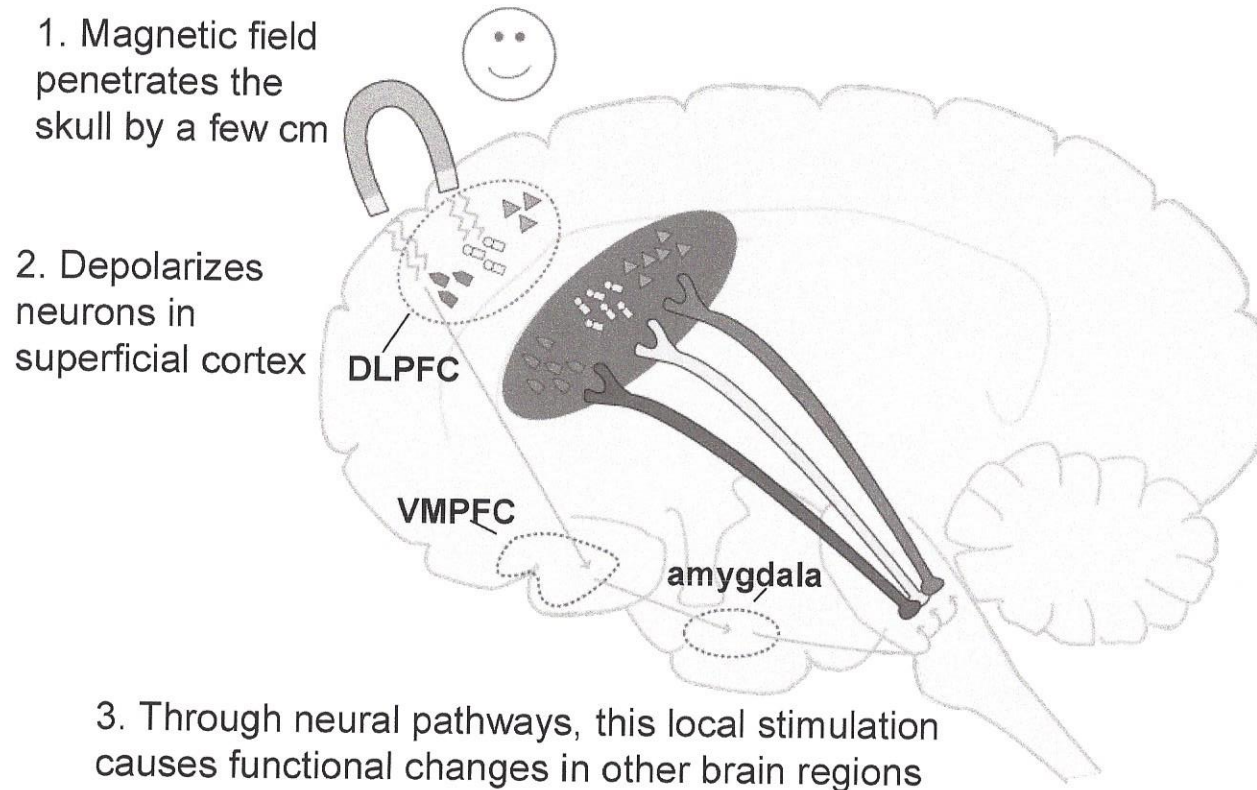


# TMS

- TMS can induce relatively large currents in targeted cortical areas because magnetic fields can pass through the skull with almost no resistance
- The peak discharge current needs to be several thousand amperes to induce currents in the brain large enough to depolarize neural elements (about 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- The depolarized neurons can generate various physiological/ behavioral effects depending on the targeted brain region
- The precise mechanisms underlying TMS are largely unknown
- Intensity of stimulation is largely dictated by baseline excitability of the cortex
- This can be measured by the minimum stimulation required to bring about a motor evoked potential (MEP)
- Observation of muscle movement in subject after stimulation is called resting motor threshold (RMT)

Sauvé et al. Psychiatric annals. 2014, 44(6):279-283.

# TMS: A Monoamine Booster?

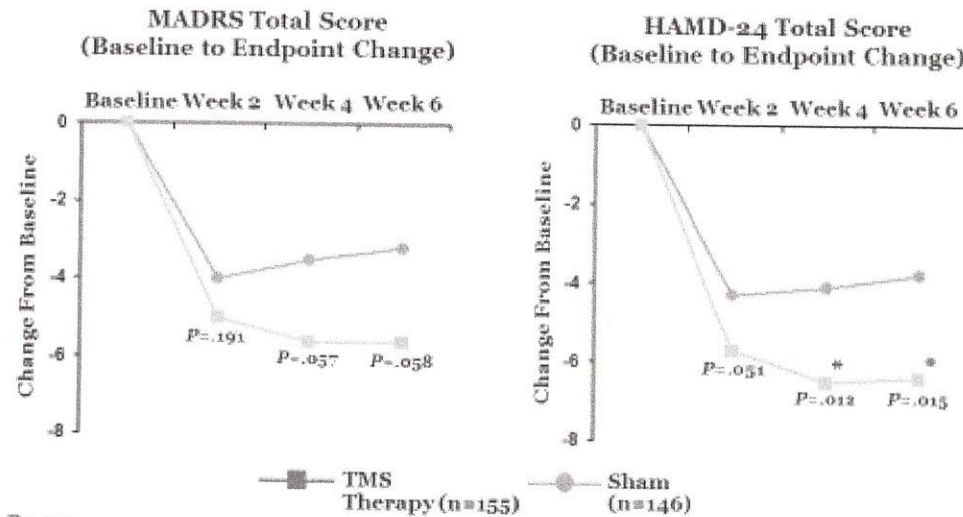


Stahl SM. Stahl's essential psychopharmacology. 4th ed. 2013.

# History of TMS

- Efficacy
- FDA approved in 2008

## FDA Approved Device TMS Therapy: Overall Efficacy in RCT



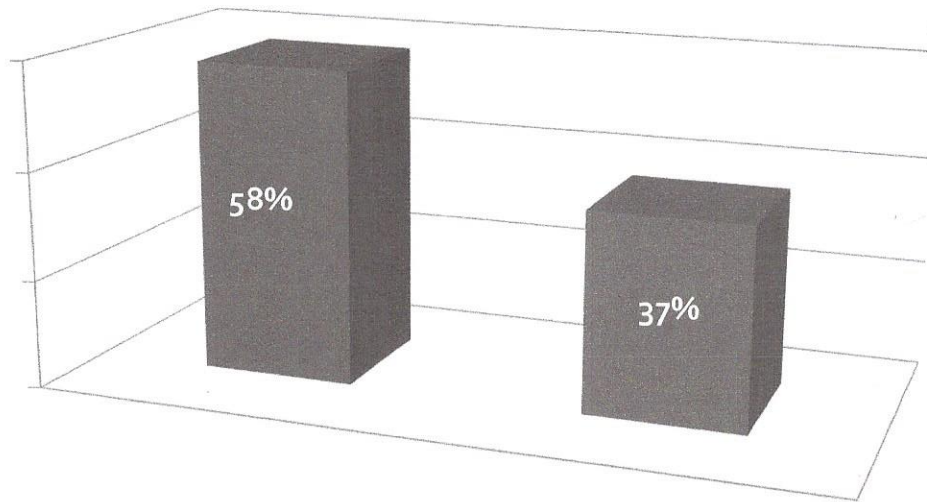
\*  $P < .05$ ,  
LOCF, LS mean.

O'Reardon JP et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2007;62(11):1208-1216.

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O'Reardon et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2007; 62(11):1208-1216.

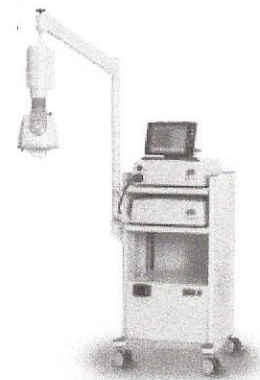
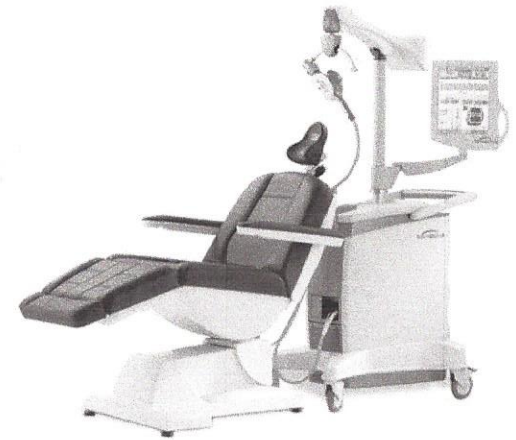
# Real World Efficacy (Open Label)



Carpenter et al, *Depress Anxiety*, July 2012 9(7):587-96 2

# TMS: The Procedure

- Electromagnetic coil is placed against the scalp and delivers pulses of the magnetic field in 30-s intervals
  - 4 s each, 10 pulses/s, with 26-s rest intervals
  - Or 2s each, 18 pulses/s with 20-s rest intervals
  - Feels/sounds like light tapping on the scalp (patient and staff should wear protective earplugs)
- Therapeutic dose: 90–120% of resting motor threshold (RMT)
  - Motor threshold: magnetic field strength that results in movement of right thumb
- Session length: typically 30–50 minutes
- Treatment duration: typically 5 treatments/week for 4–6 weeks





# Long-term Efficacy of TMS

- Open label durability study published in 2014
- 42 practices, 257 patients, 120 obtained response/remission
- At 52 weeks, 62.5% still meeting criteria for response/remission
- 36.2% with return/worsening of symptoms, most reobtained response with additional treatments

Dunner DL et al. J Clin Psychiatry. 2014;75(12):1394-1401.

# Are We Ready for TMS Maintenance?

- What should we offer to patients after they complete an acute course of TMS treatment, particularly if they responded?
- Current standard is to return patient to outpatient providers for pharmacological/psychotherapeutic treatment
- If symptoms relapse, a new course of TMS is considered
- What about relapse-prevention maintenance?
- Recent study: clustered maintenance (5 sessions over two days, once a month) prevented relapse better than no maintenance
- Also effective: 1 session/wk for 2 wks, 1 session every 2 wks for 2 months, 1 session/month for 2 months
- Once monthly for medication-free patients with MDD may not be sufficient
- Appropriately powered clinical trials are needed
- In the meantime, clinicians need to make decisions about the most effective course for individual patients

Dunner et al., J Clin Psychiatry. 2014;75(12):1394-401; Fitzgerald et al., Brain Stimulation. 2013;6(3):292-7;  
Richieri et al., J Affect Disord. 2013;151(1):129-35.

# Monitoring Efficacy of TMS: Neuroimaging

- Technical feasibility for the combination of TMS and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) was first demonstrated in 1998
- Investigated brain responses to TMS over motor cortex (M1)
- Found that TMS affected the BOLD signal not only at the stimulation site, but in remote brain structures interconnected with M1
- Applying TMS to one region can affect the activity in remote cortical areas with high spatial specificity
- TMS may influence interconnected brain regions not just diffusely, but via topographically organized anatomical tracts (e.g., visual field studies)
- Concurrent TMS-fMRI makes it possible to investigate context-dependence of functional interactions within extended networks of remote but interconnected brain areas, while varying stimulation or task-state
- fMRI can be helpful in monitoring the efficacy of TMS on behavior

Ruff et al. Cortex 2009;45(9):1043-1049.

# Repetitive TMS (rTMS) and Major Depression

- Repetitive TMS (rTMS) has been shown to disrupt neuronal activity for periods exceeding stimulation duration for the treatment of a variety of neuropsychiatric illnesses
- Current rTMS treatment for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) has frequently followed one of the two most common protocols
  - **High**-frequency rTMS (HF-rTMS, >1.0Hz) to the **left** dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC)
  - **Low**-frequency rTMS (LF-rTMS, <1.0 Hz) to the **right** DLPFC
- High-frequency stimulation activates, while low-frequency stimulation inhibits neural activities (when intensity is > MT)
- Altered cortical activity modulates interactions of different brain regions
- Meta-analysis: Both rTMS methods have been equally effective therapies for MDD

Teng et al., Eur Psychiatry. 2017;41:75-84; Brasil-Neto et al., Arq Neuropsiquiatr 2003;61(1):83-6.

# Repetitive TMS and Major Depression

- Recent meta-analysis examined HF-rTMS on MDD
- Thirty RCTs with a total of 1754 subjects (1136 TMS; 618 sham)
- For groups: 5, 10, 15, 20 sessions
- rTMS had a significant overall therapeutic effect on depression severity scores
- Subgroups examined number of pulses: less than or equal to 100 pulses, 1200-1500, 1600-1800, or 2000-3000 pulses
- The higher the number of rTMS sessions, the greater the improvement

Across the groups, the maximal mean effect size overall was obtained in the subgroup of 1200-1500 pulses per day ( $p < 0.05$ )

- This pulse range may produce the best antidepressant effects, regardless of session numbers

Teng et al., *Eur Psychiatry*. 2017;41:75-84; Brasil-Neto et al., *Arq Neuropsiquiatr* 2003;61(1): 83-6.

# TMS for Treatment of Depression in Special Populations

## Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):



- Recent study: treatment-resistant depressed patients with multiple TBIs: 20 daily sessions of bilateral rTMS treatment (4000 left-sided excitatory pulses, 1000 right-sided inhibitory pulses)
- Improvements in clinician-assessed mood ratings, self-report emotional scores (mood, anger, anxiety, and behavioral dyscontrol), fluid cognition, and headaches (Hacker et al., unpublished)

## Bipolar:



- 20 sessions of active or sham deep TMS (dTMS) administered to the left DLPFC (H1-coil, 55 18 Hz 2-sec 120% MT trains)
- Active dTMS was superior to sham in reducing scores on the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS-17)

Diego et al. Neuropsychopharmacology. doi: 10.1038/npp.2017.26; Hacker et al. (Abstract, not published)

# TMS for the Treatment of Depression in Special Populations

## Parkinson's



- rTMS over the DLPFC resulted in significant reductions in scores of depressive symptoms and improved cognitive performance in patients with Parkinson's

## Post Stroke Depression (PSD):



- Meta-analysis of RCTs of rTMS for the treatment of PSD
- rTMS was beneficial on PSD using three different scales (HAMD, NIHSS, and MARDE)
- Findings should be treated with caution because of the heterogeneity and potential bias

Dinkelbach et al. Neuroscience and Behavioral Reviews. 2017;75:407-418; Shen et al. Journal of Affective Disorders. 2017;65-74.

# TMS for the Treatment of Anxiety Disorders

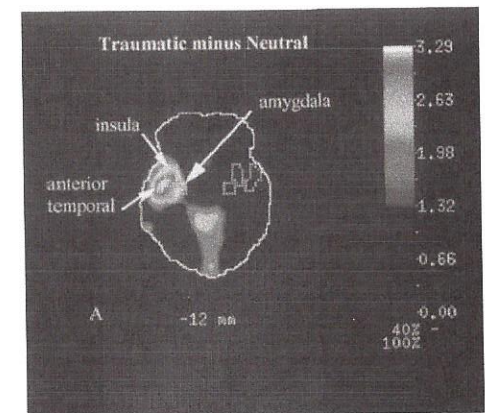
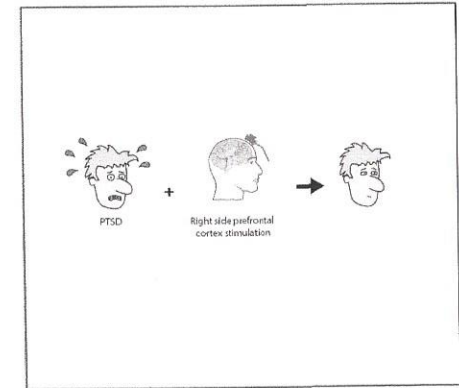
- Up to 50% of patients with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) fail to respond to first-line pharmacotherapies
- In a recent study, patients with GAD were treated with HF-rTMS (20 Hz) applied to the right DLPFC at 110% RMT
- 25 treatments resulted in a significant reduction in the Hamilton Anxiety Scale (HARS) scores compared to sham
  
- Patients with Panic Disorder (PD): HF-rTMS to the left DLPFC has resulted in significant reduction of symptoms
- LF-rTMS *and* HF-rTMS to the right DLPFC both result in reduced symptoms in anxiety disorders
- Limitation of rTMS in anxiety disorders: not possible to stimulate distant cortical and subcortical areas that are relevant to the pathogenesis of anxiety
- Further studies should examine tDCS

Dilkov et al. Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2017;78:61-65.



# TMS and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- Not all patients respond to pharmacological treatment for PTSD
- LF-rTMS applied to the right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) improves symptoms
- In as few as 10 sessions, PTSD symptoms significantly improved
- LF-rTMS might decrease activity in the cortical areas of the right hemisphere
- Improve abnormalities in asymmetries associated with PTSD
- HF-rTMS activates the HPA axis, inhibiting autonomic response and suppressing amygdala activity
- Both LF and HF rTMS when applied to the right DLPFC reduce symptoms of PTSD



Iannone et al. Clinical use of TMS and tDCS. 2017;74(10):829-835.

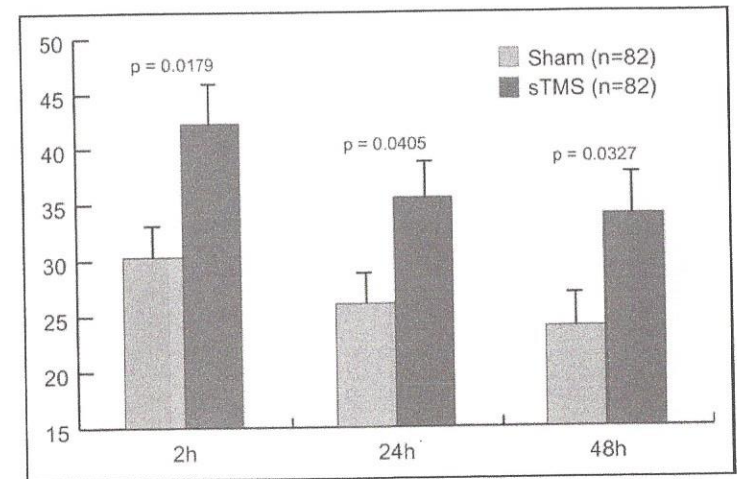
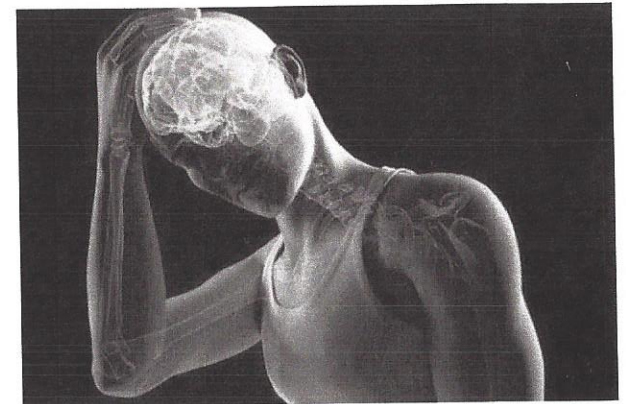
# TMS for the treatment of PTSD

- fMRI has identified hypo-activation of the prefrontal cortex (mPFC and DLPFC) and hyper-responsivity of the amygdala in individuals diagnosed with PTSD
- PET analysis confirmed a right-sided lateralization in individuals with PTSD by demonstrating increased blood flow in right-sided limbic and paralimbic regions when participants were presented with traumatic scripts compared to neutral scripts
- In a study, 29 patients with PTSD randomly assigned to one of 3 groups:
  - Group 1: Sham
  - Group 2: Low frequency (1 Hz) at 80% RMT to the right DLPFC (20 min total)
  - Group 3: High frequency (10 Hz) at 80% RMT to the right DLPFC (20 min total)
- High-frequency rTMS (Group 3) significantly improved anxiety and PTSD core symptoms (avoidance and re-experiencing) in comparison to low-frequency and sham groups
- Recent study found significant improvements in PTSD symptoms (intrusions, avoidance, arousal) from deep transcranial magnetic stimulation (dTMS) to the mPFC at 120% RMT combined with brief exposure procedure
- Further research defining treatment delivery and pulse sequences should bring this treatment modality closer to routine clinical application

Iannone et al. Clinical use of TMS and tDCS. 2017;74(10):829-835; Isserles et al. Brain Stimul. 2013;6:377-83.

# TMS for the Treatment of Headache/Migraine

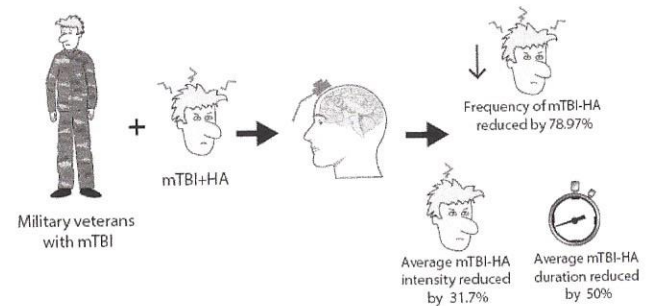
- Aura has been implicated in the pathophysiology of migraine
- TMS pulses can block waves of cortical spreading depression (CSD) that underlies migrainous aura
- TMS can block waves of CSD once initiated
- Cannot prevent them
- May disrupt CSD by interrupting progression across cortex
- Single pulse TMS to the occipital lobe (two pulses administered after onset of migraine) resulted in pain-free results at 2, 24, and 48 hours post treatment



Barker et al. Headache. 2016;57(3):517-524.

# TMS for Treatment of TBI-Related Headache

- Headache: one of the most common chronic pain conditions in patients with mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)
- Meta-analysis: rTMS used for management of chronic pain
- In a recent pilot study (n=6), 4 treatment sessions of rTMS delivered to left DLPFC in patients with mTBI-related headaches
- 2000 pulses at 80% RMT
- Average headache frequency: ↓ 78.97%, 2 patients had complete cessation of headaches
- For those with persistent headaches, average duration: ↓ 50%, and intensity ↓ 31.7%



# TMS for the Treatment of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

- OCD is associated with dysfunction in the frontostriatal circuit
- Only 40% of patients respond to pharmacological treatment and cognitive behavioral therapy
- Recent studies with rTMS: Inhibitory application at low frequency (1 Hz) on the supplementary motor area (SMA) improves symptoms and increases the motor threshold
- Increased intracortical inhibition measured by the matched magnetic pulses technique
- In recent lit reviews: Response rates to LF-rTMS on the orbitofrontal cortex or SMA varied between 13% and 35%
- Promising targets for reducing symptoms of OCD
- Recent study using H7 coil found significantly positive results in treatment of OCD, possibly by stimulating the mPFCs and ACC
- More studies needed

Iannone et al. Clinical use of TMS and tDCS. 2017;74(10):829-835.

# TMS for the Treatment of Addiction

- Positive results from HF-rTMS for several types of addictions:

## **Methamphetamine:**

- 30 MA-addicted patients received 5 sessions of 8 min sham or 10 Hz rTMS to the left DLPFC
- rTMS over the left DLPFC reduced craving significantly after 5 sessions of rTMS compared to sham stimulation
- rTMS improved verbal learning and social cognition in MA-addicted patients

## **Cocaine:**

- 32 cocaine-addicted patients received rTMS to the left DLPFC or sham
- rTMS resulted in a significantly higher number of cocaine-free urine drug tests compared to control

Terraneo et al. Eur Neuropsychopharmacology. 2016;26(1):37-44; Su et al. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2017;175:84-91.

# TMS for the Treatment of Addiction

## **Gambling Disorder (GD)**

- 22 patients with GD received HF-rTMS to the left DLPFC or sham
- Before and after each rTMS session, participants rated their gambling craving from 0 to 100 before and after viewing a gambling video used as a cue
- A single session of HF-rTMS significantly decreased cue-induced craving; however, it did not alter gambling behavior
- Future studies are needed

## **Alcohol Dependence:**

- Accelerated HF-rTMS at 110% RMT to the right DLPFC (15 sessions over 4 days) and fMRI
- General craving significantly decreased after 15 HF-rTMS sessions
- However, cue-induced alcohol craving was not altered
- Brain activation changes after 1 session, and 15 HF-rTMS sessions, respectively were observed in regions associated with the extended reward system and default mode network

Herremans et al. PLOS One. 2015;10(8): e0136182. doi:10.1371; Gay et al. Eur Psychiatry. 2017;41:68-74.

# TMS for the Treatment of Epilepsy

- Recent meta-analysis examined brain stimulation techniques on frequency of seizures in patients with drug-resistant epilepsy (DRE)
- 4 studies: use of rTMS as a non-invasive antiepileptic option for patients with DRE had mixed results
- 2 studies: no significant differences in seizure frequency
- 2 studies: significant reductions in seizure frequency in patients with predetermined location of cortical seizure foci
- In contrast to the previous 2 studies, this study included patients with cortical dysplasia or superficial epilepsy origin
- A significant decrease in seizure frequency, eight weeks after stimulation
- Initial rTMS treatment had a longer-lasting effect on seizure frequency reduction after completion of treatment
- Single-blinded trial demonstrated that 35.5% of patients remained seizure free, and 22% had a complete abolishment of epileptiform discharges at the end of the blinded evaluation period

Fregni et al. *Ann Neurol.* 2006;60:447-455; Theodore et al. *Neurology.* 2002;59:560-562; Cantello et al. *Epilepsia.* 2007;48:366-374; Sun et al. *Epilepsia.* 2012;53:1782-1789.



# TMS for the Treatment of Sleep Disturbances

- Recent study examined LF-rTMS on sleep pattern in patients with focal epilepsy
- 24 male patients underwent LF-rTMS (1000 pulses/ 1Hz) daily for 10 days
- Polysomnographic study was performed at baseline and after the last TMS treatment
- TMS induced significant increase in sleep efficiency and total sleep time, along with a decrease in latency and number of awakenings
- TMS may mediate therapeutic effects in the treatment of patients with focal epilepsy



Sanchez-Escandon et al., Sleep Med. 2016;20:37-40.

# Exploratory Studies with TMS

**Pregnancy:**  
Meta-analysis (12 studies) of rTMS significantly reduced acute depressive episodes in pregnant women with no adverse consequences to offspring

**Children:**  
LF-rTMS suppressed cortical excitability in ASD when applied to the DLPFC and results in behavioral improvements.  
LF-rTMS to the SMA significantly reduced symptoms in 4 weeks for patients under 16 with Tourette's Syndrome

**Elderly:**  
4 weeks of rTMS significantly reduced depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation.  
In patients with Parkinson's Disease:  
Meta-analysis (22 studies) showed that rTMS significantly improved short-term upper limb fxn, short-term and long-term walking fxn

**Schizophrenia:**  
Meta-analysis of 17 studies demonstrated that rTMS significantly reduced auditory hallucinations in patients with schizophrenia

\*ASD= autism spectrum disorder; SMA =supplemental motor area

Zhang et al. Neural Regen Res. 2013;8(28):2666-76; Hameed et al. Curr Neurol Neurosci Rep. 2017;17(11):1-15; Felipe et al. Trends in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. 2016;38(4):190-197; Chung et al. Brain Stimul. 2016;9(4):475-487.

# Exploratory Studies with TMS

- Recent studies have aimed to reduce inter-individual variability and increase the efficacy of rTMS
- One factor that remains overlooked is inter-train variability (ITI)
- In early studies, ITIs were introduced to avoid overheating of stimulation coils and as a safety consideration
- Recent study: rTMS (20 Hz, 2s trains, 1200 pulses, 100% RMT) was applied to 14 healthy individuals with ITI of 4s (duration~3 min), 8s (~5min), 16s (~9min) or 32s (16.5 min)
- Sessions separated by  $\geq 5$  days
- Disinhibition increased with shorter ITI duration
- These findings provide the first evidence to suggest that ITI may be substantially shortened without loss of rTMS effects
- Shorter ITI results in greater disinhibitory effects, which may be desirable for accelerated treatment paradigms

Cash et al., Brain Stimulation. 2017;10:630-636.

# Other Brain Stimulation Techniques





- Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)
- Cranial Electrotherapy (CES)
- Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)
- Deep Brain Stimulation

# Other Brain Stimulation Techniques

- Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)
- Deep Brain Stimulation

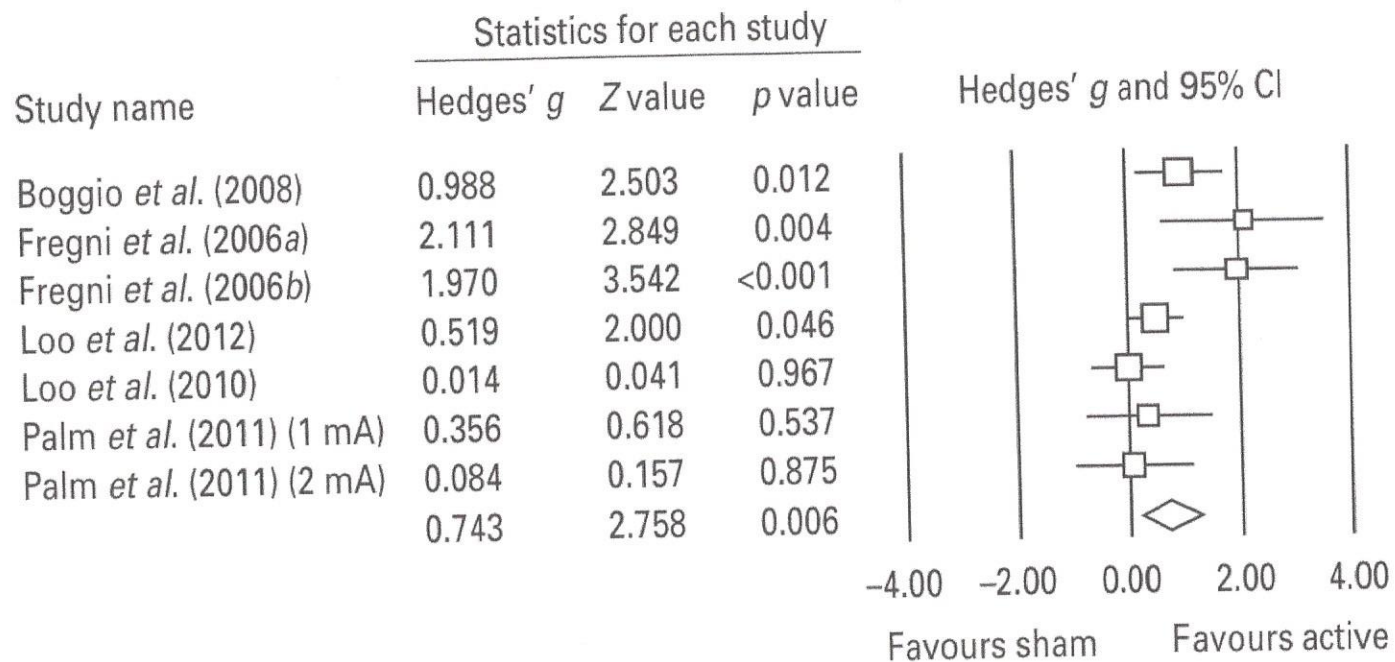
# Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)

- Non-invasive, non-convulsive
- Weak direct current passes into the cerebral cortex through 2 surface scalp electrodes
- Modulates cortical excitability dependent on the polarity of the stimulation

Stimulation:	Polarization:	Neuronal firing:	Cortical excitability:
Anodal	Depolarized		
Cathodal	Hyperpolarized		

Blumberger DM et al. Curr Psychiatry Rep 2013;15(7):368;  
Kalu UG et al. Psychol Med 2012;42(9):1791-800.

# Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation: Efficacy



Kalu UG *et al.* *Psychol Med* 2012;42(9):1791-800.

# Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation Procedure

- Electrode placement
  - Most studies: anodal over left DLPFC and cathodal over right DLPFC or supraorbital region
  - Based on premise that left DLPFC is hypoactive
- Current strength: 1–2 mA
- Duration: ~20 minutes/session
- Frequency: Daily for 1–4 weeks
- Side effects: headache, itchiness and redness at stimulation site, (hypo)mania



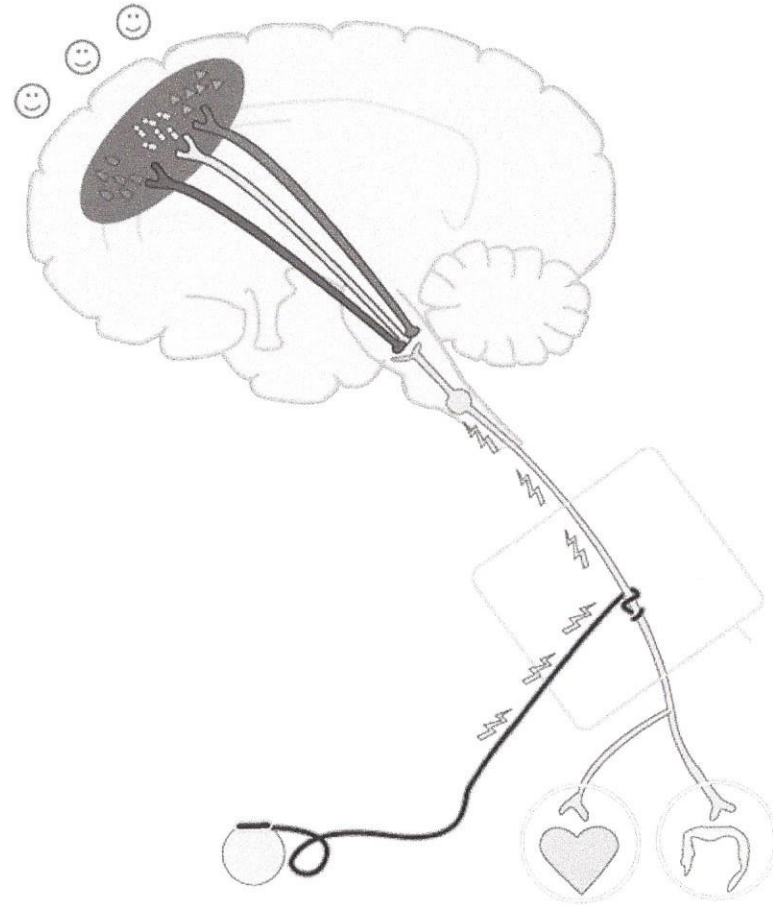
# Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation

## Current State

- Clinical trials are still in infancy
- Most studies have been in mild to moderate depression without treatment resistance
- Insufficient data for moderate to severe depression with previous treatment failure
- Minimal data but possible benefit for mild to moderate non-resistant depression

Blumberger DM et al. *Curr Psychiatry Rep* 2013;15(7):368;  
Brunoni AR et al. *Frontiers Psychiatry* 2013;4(19):Epub ahead of print.

# Vagus Nerve Stimulation: A Monoamine Booster?



Impulses from an external stimulator reach the vagus nerve

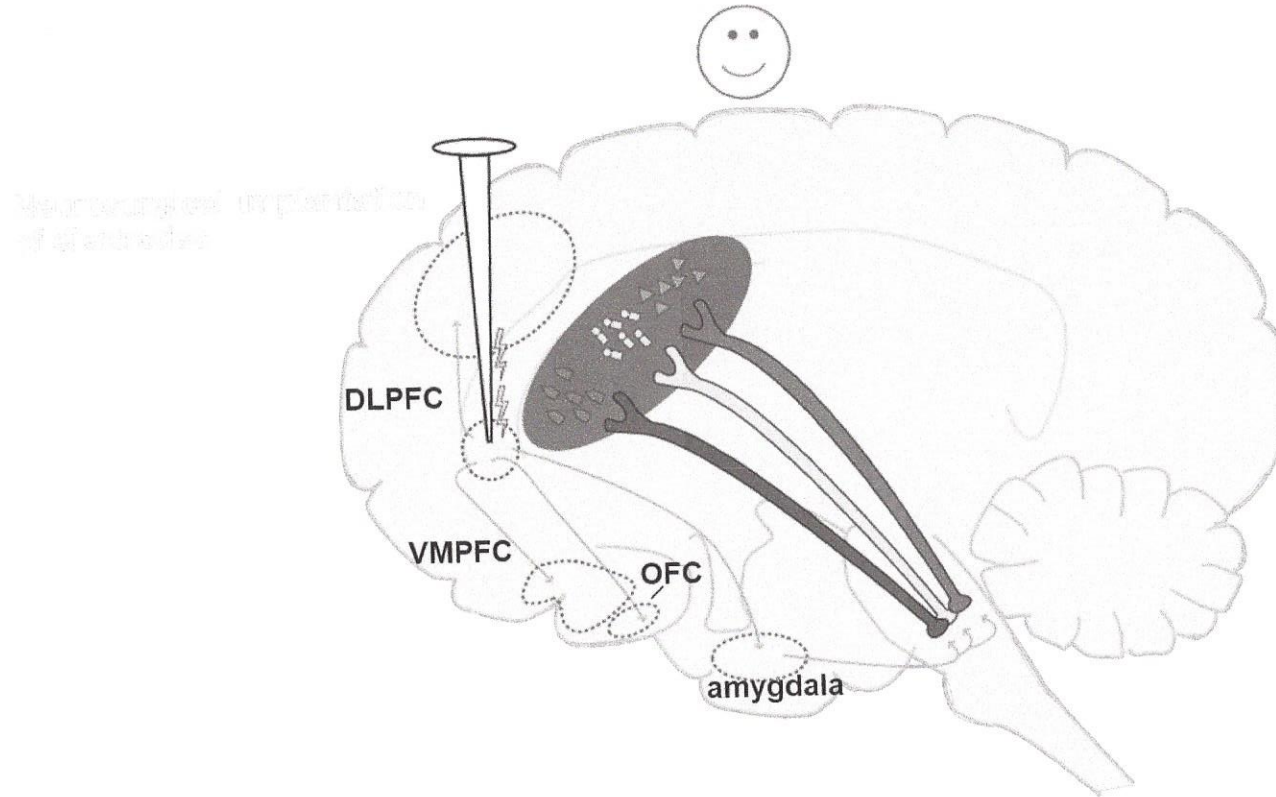
Stahl's Clinical Essential  
Psychopharmacology 4th ed. 2013

# Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS)

- Approved to treat depression that has not responded to multiple antidepressants
- Most insurance companies do not cover
- Large controlled study did not demonstrate difference vs. placebo
- Recent meta-analysis shows superiority to treatment as usual but still low remission rates
  - Included single-arm and nonrandomized trials

Rush AJ et al. Biol Psychiatry 2005;58(5):347-54; Berry SM et al. J Med Devices 2013;6:17-35.

# Deep Brain Stimulation(DBS): A Monoamine Booster?



Stahl SM. Stahl's essential psychopharmacology. 4th ed. 2013.

# Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

- In trials for treatment-resistant depression
- Response to treatment appears to be rapid
- No cognitive adverse effects have been observed
- DBS is an established treatment for motor dysfunction in patients with Parkinson's Disease

# DBS in Parkinson's Disease

- Used a previously tested model to determine that certain connectivity patterns of DBS electrode placement were associated with beneficial effects on the Unified PD Rating Scale (UPDRS)
- 44 patients with PD: connectivity at the DBS electrode location could predict individual patient UPDRS scores with an average error of 15%
- Connectivity data could be used in conjunction with DBS for more accurate and effective electrode placement

