

## DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION FOR OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HOSPITAL

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery offer highly specialized treatment for the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) at the University of Miami. The OCD team is dedicated to provide accurate clinical assessments and treatment. Services include consultations, medication management, evidence-based psychotherapy, and Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for severe cases of OCD. DBS is an alternative to anterior capsulotomy for the treatment of chronic, severe, treatment-resistant obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) in patients who have not responded to conventional treatments.

### **OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER**

Obsessive Compulsive disorder (OCD) is a worldwide, neuropsychiatric disorder with a lifetime prevalence of approximately 2%, and a high incidence of chronic and marked disability. It is the fourth most common neuropsychiatric illness, and affects 1 in 40 adults and 1 in 200 children. Individuals with OCD suffer recurrent subjective distress, along with significant impairment in social or occupational functioning.

Many patients suffering with OCD can be treated effectively with a combination of medication and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in the form of Exposure and Response Prevention (ERP); however, a minority of such patients cannot find adequate relief from these available interventions and are resistant to conventional treatments. Recently, newer methods of treating these individuals suffering from chronic, severe, treatment-resistant OCD symptoms have been demonstrated to have promising therapeutic effects. Our OCD team will delineate the severity of the OCD symptoms and offer state-of-the art treatment in reducing distress. Our team is comprised of the following multidisciplinary medical school faculty.

### **ATTENDING FACULTY PHYSICIANS**

**Clara L Alvarez Villalba, M.D.** Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Division of Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, is board certified in general psychiatry, addiction medicine, and psychosomatic medicine. Dr Alvarez specializes in the treatment of psychiatric conditions in the medically ill and focuses on anxiety disorders.

**Jonathan Jagid, M.D.** Associate Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery. Dr Jagid specializes in the field of stereotactic neurosurgery & movement disorders and is Neurosurgical Director of the Deep Brain Stimulation Program at the University of Miami. He has secondary Appointments with the Department of Neurology, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Medicine. His practice focuses on the surgical management of movement disorders, spasticity, neuro-oncology, functional neurosurgery, and stereotactic radiosurgery.

**Bruno Gallo, M.D.** Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology, Director of Intraoperative Neurophysiology. He is a Neurology Attending and Consultant at Jackson Memorial Hospital and a recipient of the Peritz Scheinberg Clinical Neurology Award. He completed the Bowman-Gray Mini-Epilepsy Fellowship under the direction of J. Kiffin Penry, MD. Dr. Gallo is a renowned expert in movement disorders and deep brain stimulation. He is currently Director of Intra-operative monitoring for Jackson Memorial Hospital's operating rooms.

**Rene Hernandez-Cardenache, Psy.D.** Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, is Director of the Adult Clinical Neuropsychology Program. He has extensive experience in neuropsychological assessment. Dr Hernandez –Cardenache has worked for many years in the field of traumatic brain injury, forensic clinical neuropsychology, cognitive retraining, and treating anxiety-based disorders.

**Rosie E. Curiel, Psy.D.** Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Neuropsychology. Dr. Curiel's role includes pre-surgical neurobehavioral evaluations of DBS candidates and evidenced-based treatment of OCD.

## **DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION**

Over the last decade and through the use of modern advances in brain imaging, the neurocircuitry implicated in OCD has become increasingly understood. Most recently the FDA approved a procedure called Deep Brain Stimulation for the treatment of severe OCD as a Humanitarian Device. This procedure involves the placement of an electrical stimulator to deep areas of the brain allowing for significant improvement in symptoms. It is similar to a pacemaker for the heart. Although large prospective randomized trials have not been performed yet, smaller studies have shown notable efficacy. Patients can expect up to 60% improvement in symptoms after surgery.

Not all patients are candidates for this procedure. At the University of Miami, a multidisciplinary team comprised of Psychiatrists, Neurologists, Neuropsychologists, and Neurosurgeons evaluate prospective patients to determine their eligibility. To refer a friend, family member, or a patient for OCD evaluation and treatment, please contact Clara Alvarez, M.D., Psychiatry, [CAVillalba@med.miami.edu](mailto:CAVillalba@med.miami.edu) or Rene Hernandez-Cardenache, Psy.D., at 305 355 9028, [RHCardenache@med.miami.edu](mailto:RHCardenache@med.miami.edu), Clinical Neuropsychology. International Patients should call 305-243-9100 or visit [UHealth International website](#). For more information, please visit our Deep Brain Stimulation /OCD website at <http://neurosurgery.med.miami.edu/clinical-subspecialties/psychiatric-illness>

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

We recognize the need for an understanding between you and our office regarding financial arrangements for your medical care. Our program costs are covered by many commercial insurance plans. Private-pay options are also available for individuals where insurance coverage is not available. We accept all major credit cards, cash, and checks. Our financial representatives will be happy to answer your questions regarding program costs, insurance, and payment options. Please call our office at 305 355 9028 to speak with a financial representative prior to your appointment.