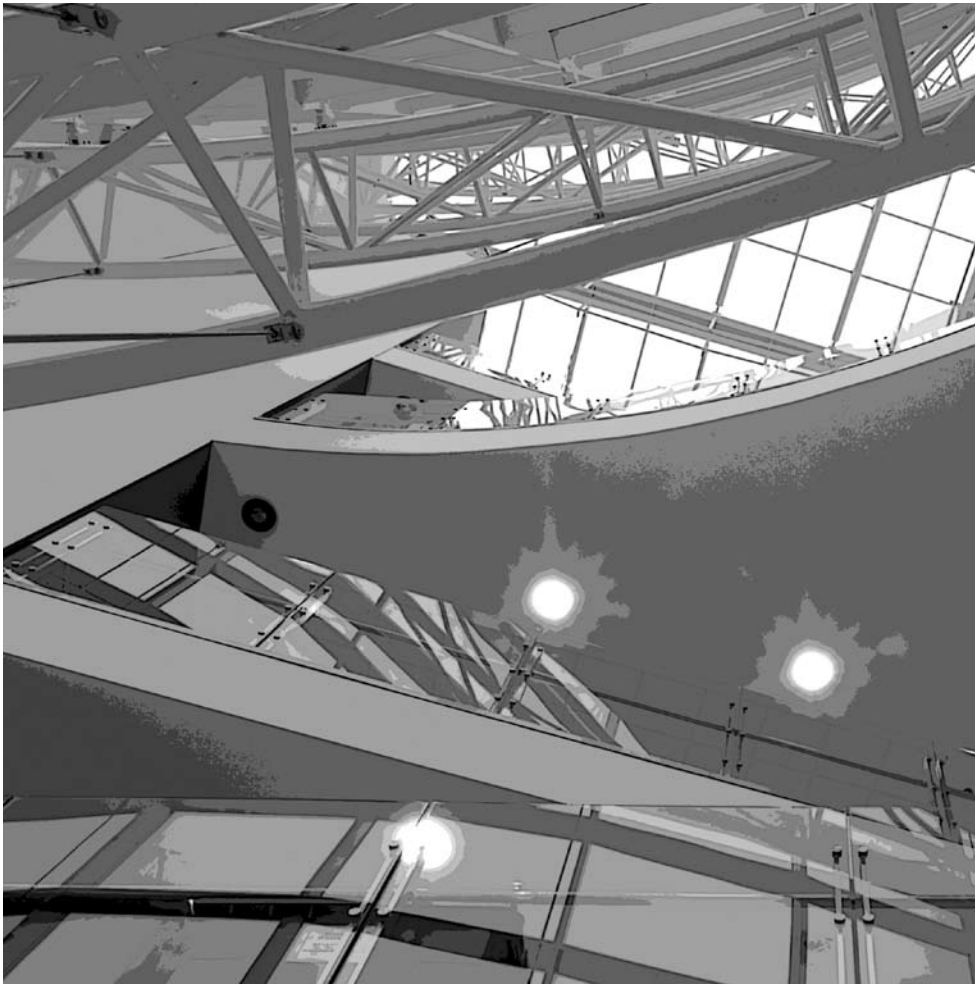


Department of Neurological Surgery
John Radcliffe Hospital
Information for patients
having a walking assessment
for Deep Brain Stimulation



If you experience difficulties with your walking or balance you may benefit from having Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). In order to assess this, you have been asked to come into hospital to have a formal assessment of your walking. This leaflet describes what will happen during your admission, and should answer any questions you may have. If you need any further information, please contact us using the numbers at the end of the leaflet.

About the assessment

The assessment takes place in a room designed specifically for looking at people's walking patterns (gait). We will take a few measurements from you, including your height and calf width, and then attach several plastic markers to your skin using tape. Some of these produce an electromyography (EMG) recording of the electrical activity of your muscles, and some enable the computer to generate an image of your walking pattern.

We will ask you to perform a few exercises, such as walking up and down, turning, and getting up from a chair. We will ask you to do these first of all before taking your usual Parkinson medications, and then again after you have had your tablets. This will enable us to see any differences between your 'off' and 'on' states. Because of this we ask you to not take your usual Parkinson medication on the morning of your assessment.

The whole assessment takes approximately 3 hours, and is videoed to give us a visual record of your walking as well as the image produced by the computer.

The day of admission

You will need to stay in hospital the night before the assessment.

On the day of admission at 12.00 hrs you need to telephone **01865 231526** to check that a bed is available for you. If you are

travelling from abroad or from a long distance away, please call the JR switchboard on **01865 741166** the day before your admission date and ask to speak to the bed manager for neurosciences.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure your admission can go ahead as planned, the John Radcliffe Hospital is a regional centre for Neurosurgery and takes emergency cases. This may mean your admission is postponed.

The day of assessment

The gait assessment room is based at another local hospital (the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre) and we will arrange hospital transport to take you to and from your bed at the John Radcliffe on the morning of the assessment.

You will be accompanied by a Movement Disorder Nurse, and joined by members of the research team who work with Professor Aziz, Dr Bogdanovic and Mr. Green. Please wear shorts and a t-shirt as this enables the markers to be accurately positioned; and bring your tablets with you.

Things to remember:

- Shorts and t-shirt
- Your medication
- Phone on the day of your planned admission to check that a bed is available for you

After the assessment

Hospital transport will bring you back to the John Radcliffe. You will usually be able to go home the same day unless we have asked you to stay longer for another assessment (explained in our pre-operative information leaflet).

Contact information:

Beth Forrow
Surgical Movement Disorder Nurse 01865 231876

Carole Joint
Surgical Movement Disorder Nurse 01865 231873

Claire Fletcher
Surgical Movement Disorder Nurse 01865 231875

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473**. When we receive your call we may transfer you to an interpreter. This can take some time, so please be patient.

Beth Forrow, Surgical Movement Disorder Nurse
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