

Innovative Technologies in

NeuroRehabilitation

Kenneth Ngo, MD 6 September 2025

Conflict of Interest

- None to disclose.
- Medical Director:
 - Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital
 - Brooks Center for Innovation

- Brief overview of current technologies in neurorehabilitation & evidence
- Touch on emerging technologies
- Potentials for telerehabilitation

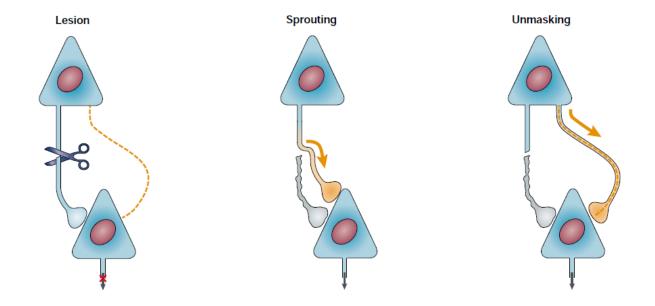
Neuroplasticity

"Neuroplasticity can be defined as the ability of the nervous system to respond to intrinsic or extrinsic stimuli by reorganizing its structure, function, and connections."

Cramer, S et al. Harnessing neuroplasticity for clinical applications. Brain 2011.



Mechanisms of Recovery





Neuroplasticity

- Brain has ability to form and re-organize synaptic connections in response to learning & experience
- FES stimulates motor & sensory fibers → changes in cortex & motor networks, cortical reorganization
- FES induces antidromic firing of motor fibers → depolarization of anterior horn cells → pre- & post-synaptic coupling & enhanced synaptic modeling
- Visual feedback further enhance learning
- Rehabilitation leads to recovery!



Neuroplasticity

- How do we harness this potential of neuroplasticity?
 - Manually
 - Robotics
 - Functional electrical stimulation (FES)



Manual vs. robotics/FES



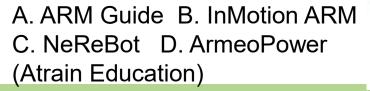
- Indego exoskeleton
- Lightweight
- Modular design
- Wireless control
- Track individual progres

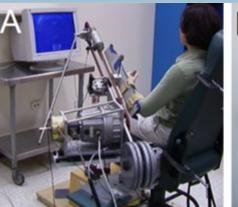






Palo Alto MIME











- ReoGo
- Fully motorized
- Easy to use
- Patient-specific exercises & progre
- Better motor & functional recover therapies





http://motorika.com/product-1/

- Armeo Power
- Exoskeleton for the upper extremity
- Intensive early arm rehabilitation
- Assist movements
- Fun exercises



- Diego
- Bilateral upper extremity
- Virtual reality
- Signals are amplified
- Improved participation





Vivistim Paired VNS System

The Implantable Pulse Generator (IPG, Model 1001) is placed underneath the chest wall.



The Lead electrodes are attached to the left vagus nerve in the neck and connected to the Implantable Pulse Generator (IPG)

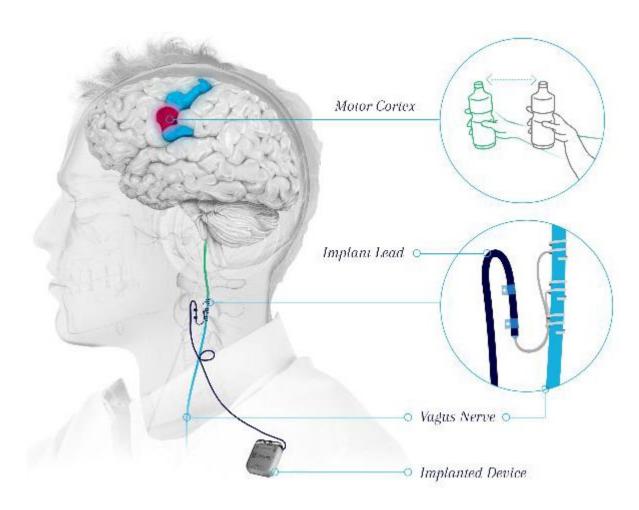
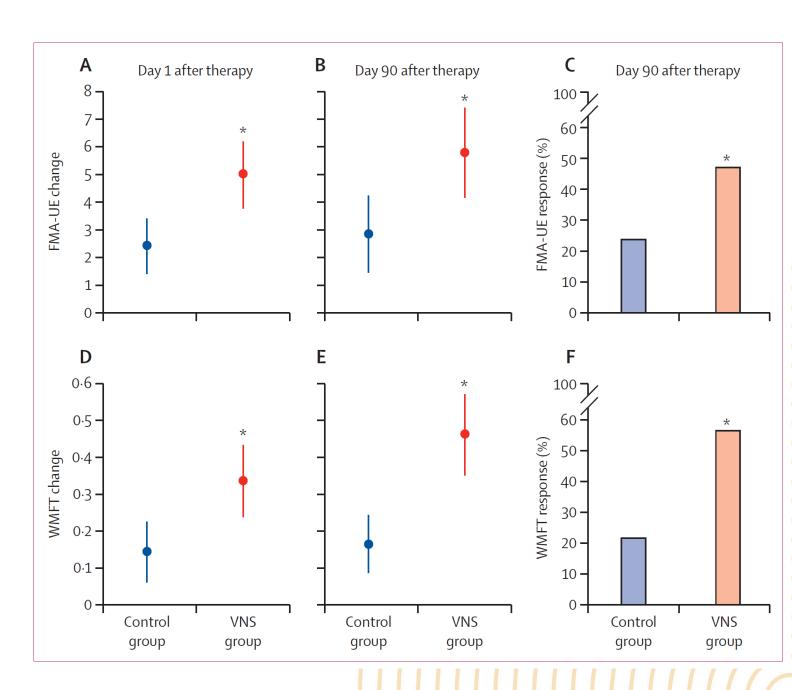


Image used with permission from MicroTransponder.

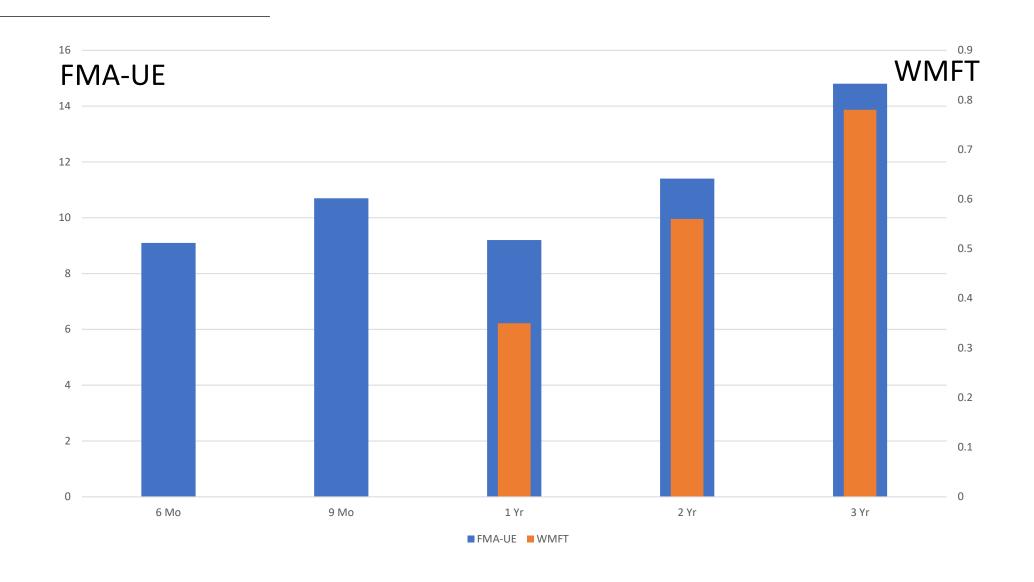


Outcome Measures Summary

Dawson J et al, The Lancet, 2021



Outcome Measures 2 – 3 Years Post



Enspire Deep Brain Stimulation

• N = 12 pts

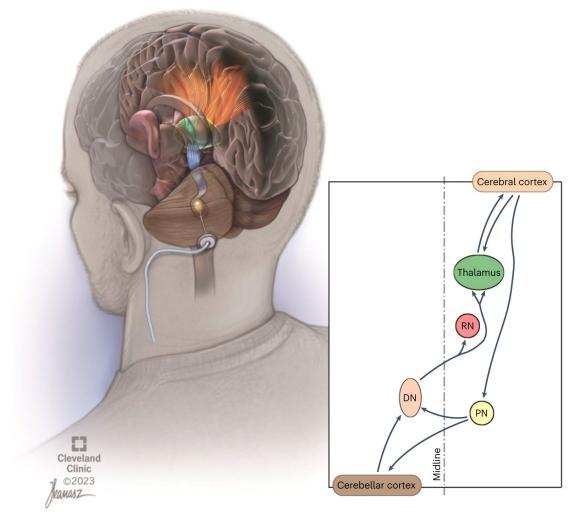
• Age: 57.4 <u>+</u> 6.5 years

• Time after stroke: 2.2 + 0.7 years

• FM-UE: 22.9 <u>+</u> 6.2 points

 Implant, wait 1 month, 2x/week therapy x 2 months, then → DBS program continuous + 2x/week therapy + home therapy x 3 months

• Outcome: + 15 FM-UE gains!



Baker, K.B., Plow, E.B., Nagel, S. *et al.* Cerebellar deep brain stimulation for chronic post-stroke motor rehabilitation: a phase I trial. *Nat Med* **29**, 2366–2374 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02507-0

PoNS (Portable Neuromodulation Stimulator)





Potentials for Telerehabilitation

- Treat patients in their own homes
- Virtual/augmented/mixed reality technologies
- Portable rehabilitation technologies that can be deployed in the home setting
- Outcome measures imbedded in these technologies
- Artificial intelligence: assess patients, prescribe therapies, learn and adapt to specific patient needs

