

Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS)

Introduction

Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) is a non-invasive form of brain stimulation used for neuro-rehabilitation. The usage of rTMS together with conventional neuro-rehabilitation interventions can enhance the training result for stroke patients.

Procedure

This rTMS procedure will be carried out by trained healthcare team. Patient will be arranged to take a comfortable sitting position before the procedure. The healthcare team will then place a magnetic coil against your scalp in a specific area. You need to hold your head steady during the procedure to prevent coil displacement. Ear plugs will be provided to patients to minimise discomfort or noise, if required.

Potential Risk

rTMS is beneficial and usually safe to patients. Before the treatment starts, healthcare team will conduct assessment and perform safety screening to minimise risks and other discomfort. Still, some patients may experience mild muscle twitching over face and hands, or have mild transient pain during the treatment. Under rare occasions, some patients may develop seizures. The healthcare team will closely monitor patient's response throughout the procedure to ensure safety. Medical interventions will be provided promptly whenever indicated.

Preparation before the Treatment

1. You have to rest well and DO NOT drink alcohol before treatment. Please inform your doctor if you are a drinker.
2. You should inform doctor/nurse of your drug history and follow their instructions of drug intake accordingly.
3. Please wash your hairs the day before treatment and DO NOT use any hair styling gel / wax / spray etc. after washing.
4. Please remove all metallic objects (e.g. jewelry, glasses, hairclips, earrings or any headwear) from your head and neck before treatment.

Signs to Observe after the Treatment

If you are feeling unwell or having discomfort after the treatment, in-patients please inform ward nurse immediately. For out-patients attending clinics, please contact healthcare team within service hours. You may need to seek medical advice at Accident & Emergency Department if you have severe signs and/or symptoms.