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“Brain Pacemaker” Procedure Available in Muskegon Cited in National Study, *JAMA* Article

***Hackley Hospital One of Six Michigan Hospitals to Perform Procedure
Hailed as Most Significant for Parkinson’s Disease in 30 Years***

(Muskegon, MI) – A five year study being noted as a landmark for Parkinson’s Disease patients has reported in the a *New England Journal of Medicine* article that over a five-year period patients with advanced Parkinson’s disease have experienced ‘marked improvements’ in motor function and mobility when treated with deep brain stimulation (DBS).

Muskegon neurosurgeon Kim Pratt, M.D. of Shoreline Neurosurgical Consulting at 1675 Leahy Street is one of a few physicians in Michigan performing the procedure. Dr. Pratt serves as Medical Director of Hackley Hospital’s Movement Disorders Program. The deep brain stimulation procedure is available at only six Michigan hospitals - Hackley Hospital in Muskegon, University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, Henry Ford and Beaumont Hospitals in the Detroit area, Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo and Marquette General Hospital in Marquette. Dr. Pratt is the only physician in the nation who serves as a non-university training site for physicians learning the procedure.

In respect to the five-year study published in *JAMA*, Dr. Pratt states, “The scientific study only confirms what I have seen in the daily lives of the patients on whom I have performed this procedure. The results are astounding; the most profound impact on improving the quality of life for patients that I have seen in my career.”

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In January 2002, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved Activa® Parkinson's Control Therapy – or deep brain stimulation. The procedure utilizes Medtronic's "brain pacemaker" technology to relieve the debilitating slowness, stiffness and shaking that characterize this progressive and degenerative movement disorder, which gradually robs Parkinson's patients of their independence. Activa Therapy can also reduce the duration of dyskinesia, the abnormal, involuntary movements that are a common side effect of medications for Parkinson's disease. Activa Therapy also has indications in the treatment of essential tremor, and dystonia.

Parkinson's disease is a complex, progressive and degenerative neurological disorder that causes approximately one million Americans who suffer from it to lose control over their own movements. Currently, there is no cure for the disease and drug treatments can lead to disabling and unpredictable side effects. Medtronic believes the Activa® Therapy, which delivers carefully controlled pulses of electrical stimulation to precisely targeted areas of the brain using an implanted medical device akin to a cardiac pacemaker, is the most significant advance in the treatment of Parkinson's in more than 30 years.

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