Clinical Studies for PPA

Eddie Europa, PhD, CCC-SLP

Assistant Professor, CSU Chico
Speech-Language Pathologist, CSU Chico

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY | Chico
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

UCSF Memory and Aging Center
Department of Neurology

TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

1

What is a clinical study?

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Prevention	Diagnosis	Treatment

Conducted by a research team

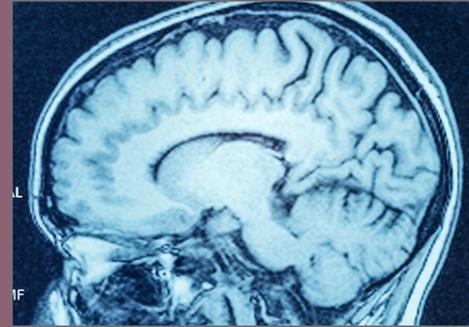Requires specific plans to be followed

May include one visit, or multiple visits

Reasons for conducting a clinical study

Learn about
prevention

Improve
diagnosis

Develop
effective treatments

Contribute to
medical science

Two main types of clinical studies:

1. Observational Studies

2. Interventional Studies / Clinical Trials

Observational studies

Volunteers receive routine medical care

With permission, researchers use the volunteer's health information for the study

Volunteers are ***not assigned*** to specific study conditions

Example: Does diet affect brain health?

Interventional Studies / Clinical Trials

Volunteers are assigned to specific conditions

Experimental Condition:
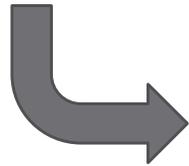*Teletherapy*

vs.

Condition A:
In-Person Therapy

vs.

Condition B:
No Therapy

- Is this helpful?
- Is this harmful?
- Is it no different from the other conditions?

PURPOSE: Determine the safety and efficacy of the experimental treatment

6

How do I find opportunities to participate in clinical studies?

https://clinicaltrials.gov/

clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/home

COVID-19 Information

Public health information (CDC) | Research information (NIH) | SARS-CoV-2 data (NCBI) | Prevention and treatment information (HHS) | Español

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

ClinicalTrials.gov

Find Studies ▾   About Studies ▾   Submit Studies ▾   Resources ▾   About Site ▾   PRS Login

ClinicalTrials.gov is a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world.

Step 1. Go to clinicaltrials.gov

IMPORTANT: Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Read our disclaimer for details.

Before participating in a study, talk to your health

Find a study (all fields optional)

Status ⓘ

○ Recruiting and not yet recruiting studies

● All studies

Condition or disease ⓘ (For example: breast cancer)

[   ] X

Other terms ⓘ (For example: NCT number, drug name, investigator name)

[   ] X

Step 2. Enter "Primary Progressive Aphasia" under Condition or disease. Then hit "Search".

You could also try different variants or terms thata re related to your specific condition. Here are some suggestions:
- Progressive Nonfluent Aphasia
- Semantic Dementia
- Logopenic Progressive Aphasia
- Alzheimer's disease
- Frontotemporal Dementia
- Pick's disease

Find a study (all fields optional)

Status ⓘ
- ○ Recruiting and not yet recruiting studies
- ● All studies

Condition or disease ⓘ (For example: breast cancer)

Primary Progressive Aphasia [X]

Other terms ⓘ (For example: NCT number, drug name, investigator name)

[X]

Country ⓘ

[X]

Search   Advanced Search

Search

Help | Studies by Topic | Studies on Map | Glossary

Patients and Families

Search for actively recruiting studies that you may be able to participate in or learn about new interventions/treatments that are being considered.

Researchers

Search the database to stay up to date on developments in your field, find collaborators, and identify unmet needs.

Study Record Managers

Learn about registering studies and about submitting their results after study completion.

Learn more

Modify Search   Start Over

220 S

Also searched for **Frontotemporal de**

| List | By Topic | On Map | Search Details |

← Hide Filters

Filters

Showing: 1-10 of **220** studies   10

| | ...ved | Status |

Step 3. Select "Recruiting", then scroll down...

Recruiting   Effects
Fluent

☐ Not yet recruiting
☑ Recruiting
☐ Enrolling by invitation
☐ Active, not recruiting
☐ Suspended
☐ Terminated
☐ Completed
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Unknown status†

2   ☐   Recruiting   Enhan
Progre

3   ☐   Recruiting   Treatin
Using

Expanded Access 🛈 :   ➕

Eligibility Criteria   ➖

4   ☐   Recruiting   Comm

| Row | Saved | Status | |

Age 🛈 :

___ years   OR

Age Group 🛈 :

☐ Child (birth–17)
☐ Adult (18–64)
☐ Older Adult (65+)

Prima

5   ☐   Completed   Transc
Progre

☐   Recruiting   The Ef
Treatm

...and go to "Study Type" and make your selection. Most people are interested in "interventional studies," or "observational studies." Then select "Apply"

☐   Completed   Transc
Has Results   Prima

○ All
◉ Interventional (Clinical Trial) 🛈
○ Observational 🛈
○   -- Patient Registries
○ Expanded Access 🛈

8   ☐   Recruiting   Langua

Study Results   ➕

9   ☐   Enrolling by   Assess
invitation   Bindin

Study Phase   ➕

Funder Type   ➕

10   ☐   Not yet   rTMS
recruiting   Aphas

Study Documents   ➕

Apply   **Clear**

Apply filter changes

Showing: 1-10 of **220** studies   10

In-Person vs. Virtual Participation

- Some studies require in-person visits
  - If you are interested in these studies, you can narrow down your search by location (see next few slides)

How to filter by location

ClinicalTrials.gov
NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

Find Studies ▾   About S

Home >   Search Results

Modify Search   Start Over

Select "On Map"

...s found for: **Recruiting Studies | Interventio**

...phasia, primary progressive, Frontotempo

Applied Filters: ☑ **Recruiting**

List | By Topic | **On Map** | Search Details

◀ Hide Filters

A similar map is available for all studies in ClinicalTrials.gov
Click on the map below to show a more detailed map (when available) or search for studies (when map not available).

Select your country or continent.

For example, my country is the USA.

If you selected the US, select your state.

For example, my state is California.

In-Person vs. Virtual Participation

- Some studies require in-person visits
  - If you are interested in these studies, you can narrow down your search by location

- Other studies can be completed online
  - If you are interested in these studies, you should check the study information
    - If it's a lot to read through, contact someone from the study (see the next few slides)

clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results/map/click?map.x=794&map.y=311&recrs=a&type=Intr&cond=Primary+Progressive...

| List | By Topic | On Map | Search Details |

◀ Hide Filters

🔊 Download   📶 Subscribe to RSS

Show/Hide Columns

Filters

Sometimes, the title of the study shows that it can be done online ➡

Row	Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions	Locations
	☐	Recruiting	Communication Bridge: A Person-centered Internet-based Intervention for Individuals With **Primary Progressive Aphasia**	• **Primary Progressive Aphasia**	• Behavioral: Evidence-Based Treatment	• Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center - Northwestern University Chicago, **Illinois**, **United States**
2	☐	Recruiting	PPA Tele-Savvy: A Pilot Study of an Online Intervention for Caregivers of Persons Living With PPA	• **Primary Progressive Aphasia** • Caregiver Burnout	• Behavioral: PPA Tele-Savvy Pilot Intervention	• Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease, Northwestern University Chicago, **Illinois**, **United States**
3	☐	Recruiting	Tau PET Imaging in Atypical Dementias	• **Primary Progressive Aphasia** With Suspected Alzheimer's Disease	• Drug: 18F-AV-1451 • Device: PET	• Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center - Northwestern University Chicago, **Illinois**, **United States**
4	☐	Recruiting	A Phase 3 Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of AL001 in **Frontotemporal Dementia** (INFRONT-3)	• **Frontotemporal Dementia**	• Drug: AL001 • Drug: Placebo	• Dignity Health Phoenix, Arizona, **United States** • University of California San Diego La Jolla, California, **United States** • University of California San Francisco San Francisco, California, **United States** • (and 45 more...)

☐ Not yet recruiting
☑ Recruiting
☐ Enrolling by invitation
☐ Active, not recruiting
☐ Suspended
☐ Terminated
☐ Completed
☐ Withdrawn
☐ Unknown status†

Expanded Access ❶ :   ➕

Eligibility Criteria   ➖

Age ❶ :

[ ] years   OR

Age Group ❶ :

☐ Child (birth–17)

clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results/map/click?map.x=174&map.y=414&recrs=a&type=Intr&cond=Primary+Progressive...

Hide Filters

Download   Subscribe to RSS

Show/Hide Columns

Filters

Sometimes, if you read more about a study, it shows that it can be done online

Recruitment ⓘ :

☐ Not yet recruiting
☑ Recruiting
☐ Enrolling by invitation

Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions	Locations
☐	Recruiting	Treatment for Speech and Language in **Primary Progressive Aphasia**	• **Primary Progressive Aphasia** • **Semantic Dementia** • Semantic Memory Disorder • (and 4 more...)	• Behavioral: Lexical Retrieval Training (LRT) • Behavioral: Video-Implemented Script Training for Aphasia (VISTA)	• University of California San Francisco San Francisco, **California**, **United States** • University of Texas Austin, Texas, **United States**

Arms and Interventions

Go to ▼

Arm ⓘ	Intervention/treatment ⓘ
Experimental: Lexical Retrieval Treatment	Behavioral: Lexical Retrieval Training (LRT) In person or via teletherapy: Participants work on producing spoken and written names of personally relevant target items using a self-cueing hierarchy. Treatment focuses on the use of strategies that capitalize on spared cognitive-linguistic abilities to support word retrieval. The participant completes two (one hour each) sessions per week with a clinician plus daily home practice exercises.

Contacts

Contact: Maya L Henry, PhD   512-471-7720   maya.henry@austin.utexas.edu

Contact: Karinne Berstis, MS   512-471-3420   aphasialab@austin.utexas.edu

If the study doesn't say it can be done online, or if you have questions, you should contact the people listed on the study.

Observational Studies for PPA in the USA
(as of July 14, 2021, there were about 17)

Title	Locations
Language in Primary Progressive Aphasia	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Florbetaben PET Imaging in PPA	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Investigating Complex Neurodegenerative Disorders Related to ALS and FTD	National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD
The Neurobiology of Two Distinct Types of Progressive Apraxia of Speech	Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Human CNS Tau Kinetics in Tauopathies	Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, MO
ARTFL LEFFTDS Longitudinal Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (ALLFTD)	Multiple Locations
4-Repeat Tauopathy Neuroimaging Initiative - Cycle 2	Multiple Locations
Phenotype, Genotype and Biomarkers 2	Multiple Locations
Clinico-Pathologic-Genetic-Imaging Study of Neurodegenerative and Related Disorders	Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Early-onset Alzheimer's Disease Phenotypes: Neuropsychology and Neural Networks	UCLA
UPenn Observational Research Repository on Neurodegenerative Disease	University of Pennsylvania
Longitudinal Study of Neurodegenerative Disorders	The Program for the Study of Neurodevelopment in Rare Disorders, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Feasibility of Passive Data Collection in Dementia Subjects With Agitation	Tucson Neuroscience Research, LLC, AZ
Rare Disease Patient Registry & Natural History Study - Coordination of Rare Diseases at Sanford	Sanford Health, Sioux Falls, SD
Longitudinal Cognitive Assessment by BoCA	Andrey Vyshedskiy, Miami, FL
Genetic Study of Familial and Sporadic ALS/Motor Neuron Disease, Miyoshi Myopathy and Other Neuromuscular Disorders	University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
DC Longitudinal Study on Aging and Specimen Bank	Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Clinical Trials for PPA in the USA

(as of July 14, 2021, there were about 27)

Title	Locations
Effects of tDCS on Apraxia of Speech in Non-Fluent Primary Progressive Aphasia	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
Enhancing Language Function in Primary Progressive Aphasia	University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Treating Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) Using High-definition tDCS	University of Pennsylvania
Communication Bridge: A Person-centered Internet-based Intervention for Individuals With Primary Progressive Aphasia	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Rehabilitating and Decelerating Language Loss in Primary Progressive Aphasia With tDCS Plus Language Therapy	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
TMS for the Treatment of Primary Progressive Aphasia	Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Treating Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) Using tDCS	University of Pennsylvania
Determining the Influence of Atrophy on Efficacy of tDCS in Treating Primary Progressive Aphasia	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
tDCS Intervention in Primary Progressive Aphasia	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
rTMS as a Treatment for PPA	Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Phase 1/2 Clinical Trial of PR006 in Patients With Frontotemporal Dementia With Progranulin Mutations (FTD-GRN)	Bioclinica Orlando, FL
Gamma-Induction in FrontoTemporal Dementia Trial	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA
PPA Tele-Savvy: A Pilot Study of an Online Intervention for Caregivers of Persons Living With PPA	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
A Phase 3 Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of AL001 in Frontotemporal Dementia (INFRONT-3)	Multiple Locations
A Phase 2 Study to Evaluate Safety of Long-term AL001 Dosing in Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) Patients (INFRONT-2)	Multiple Locations
Intranasal Insulin in Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)	HealthPartners Neuroscience Center, Saint Paul, MN
Low-Dose Lithium for the Treatment of Behavioral Symptoms in Frontotemporal Dementia	Columbia University Medical Center, NY
Treatment for Speech and Language in Primary Progressive Aphasia	UCSF, UT Austin
Tau PET Imaging in Atypical Dementias	Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Rehabilitation and Prophylaxis of Anomia in Primary Progressive Aphasia	Georgetown University Medical Center, DC; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Circuitry Assessment and Reinforcement Training Effects on Recovery	Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
Network Modulation in Alzheimer's Disease	Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, MA
Safety and Therapeutic Potential of the FDA-approved Drug Metformin for C9orf72 ALS/FTD	UF Health at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Longitudinal Multi-Modality Imaging in Progressive Apraxia of Speech	Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Rural Dementia Caregiver Project	UCSF
PET Imaging of Neuroinflammation in Neurodegenerative Diseases Via a Novel TSPO Radioligand	National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD
Longitudinal Imaging of Microglial Activation in Different Clinical Variants of Alzheimer's Disease	Columbia University Irving Medical Center, NY

Example questions to ask

- What is being studied?
- What will I have to do?
- What tests and procedures are involved?
- How often will I have to visit the hospital or clinic?
- Will hospitalization be required?
- How long will the study last?
- Who will pay for my participation?
- Will I be reimbursed for other expenses?
- What type of long-term follow-up care is part of this trial?
- Will results of the study be provided to me?
- Who will oversee my medical care while I am participating in the trial?
- What are my options if I am injured during the study?

Example questions to ask for clinical trials

- Why do researchers believe the intervention being tested might be effective? Why might it not be effective? Has it been tested before?

- What are the possible interventions that I might receive during the trial?

- How will it be determined which interventions I receive (for example, by chance)?

- Who will know which intervention I receive during the trial? Will I know? Will members of the research team know?

- How do the possible risks, side effects, and benefits of this trial compare with those of my current treatment?

- If I benefit from the intervention, will I be allowed to continue receiving it after the trial ends?
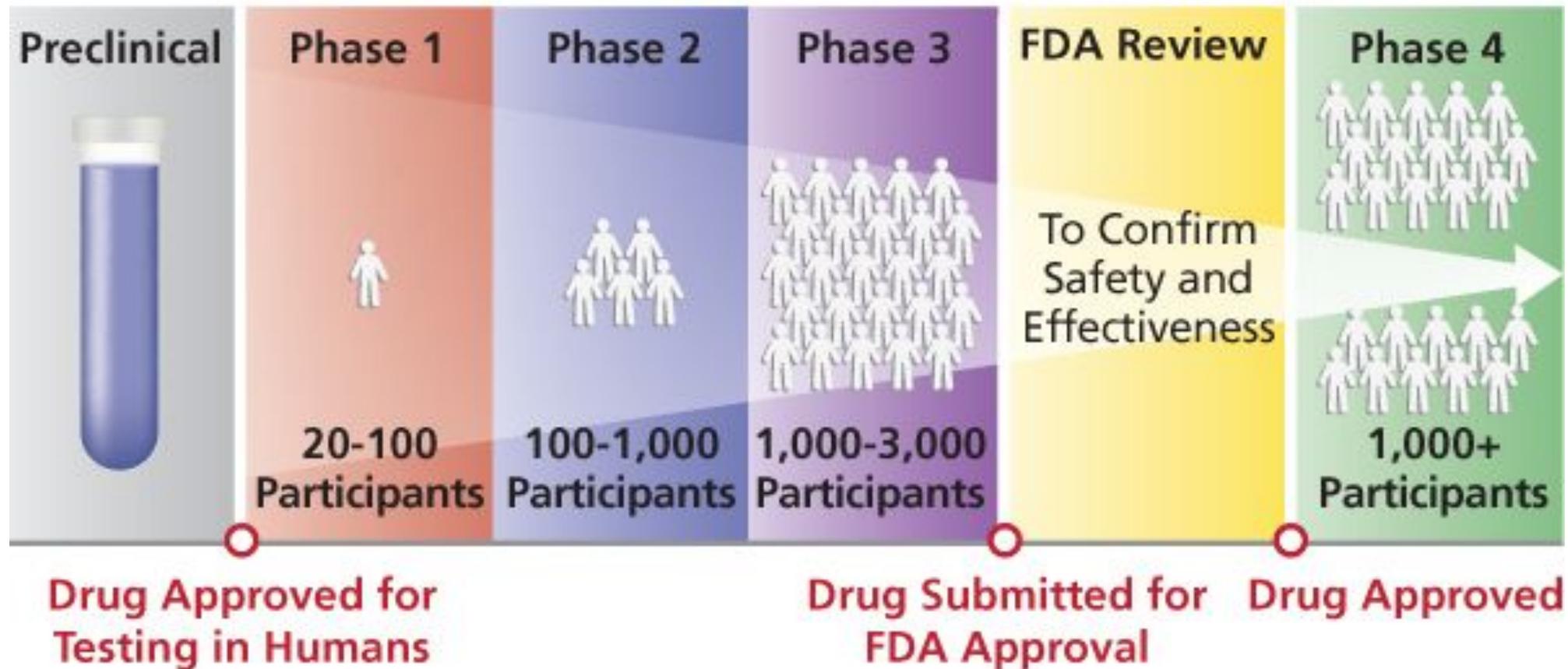
Any questions?

ereuropa@csuchico.edu

How experimental drugs are approved

Clinical Trials

Aducanumab

(trade name **Aduhelm)**

- On June 7, 2021, the FDA approved aducanumab for use in Alzheimer's disease

- This drug was developed to remove amyloid from the brain

- However, the evidence that ADUHELM offers clinical improvement or that it slows clinical worsening is not totally convincing

- ADUHELM is not a cure for Alzheimer's disease

- There is no claim that it reverses existing disease or that it stops progression.

- ADUHELM requires monthly intravenous infusions, can have side effects that require monitoring by periodic brain scans, and it is likely to be very expensive.

Excerpts from statement by Dr. M. Marsel Mesulam, Director of the Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease
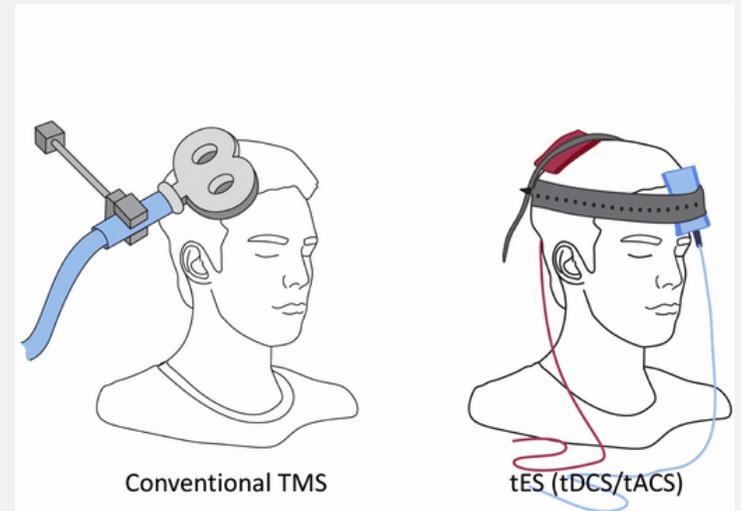
Weblinks about Aducanumab

- FDA News Release: FDA Grants Accelerated Approval for Alzheimer's Drug

- FDA Label for Aduhelm

- FDA's Decision to Approve New Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease

- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine: FDA Approval of Aducanumab

- UCSF Memory and Aging Center: Aducanumab

- New York Times: F.D.A. Approves Alzheimer's Drug Despite Fierce Debate Over Whether It Works

- Alzforum: Aducanumab Approval Sparks Backlash

NON-INVASIVE BRAIN STIMULATION

(Picture of TMS device from Johns Hopkins Medicine)

- Electrical current to excite activity in targeted brain regions

  - Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

  - Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)

- Has primarily been used in conjunction with word-finding and spelling treatments (e.g., Kyrana Tsapkini and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University)

- May augment gains made in therapy

- Not widely available for clinical use

Conventional TMS   tES (tDCS/tACS)

(Ekhtiari et al., 2019, *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*)