

Pressemitteilung

Kempen, 13. Oktober 2020

Shockwave against Alzheimer

The Neurocenter in Kempen, Germany, is further expanding its worldwide unique centre for brain stimulation.

Already at the beginning of the year, the Neurocenter in Kempen opened under the direction of its medical director and chief physician Lars Wojtecki, MD, PhD the first European reference center for Deep Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (Deep TMS) in Parkinson's disease. Magnetic stimulation from the outside through the skull complemented the already established method of Deep Brain Stimulation ("Brain Pacemaker"), in which brain surgery is necessary.

Now another method will be established: Transcranial Pulse Stimulation (TPS). With a shockwave pulse, one can advance from outside the skull bone, non-invasively and painless specific brain areas and activate them. Thanks to a navigation system, the treating neurologist can visualize on the screen exactly on the 3D MRI brain images of the patient, where the stimulation should take place.

The pulse leads to short-term membrane changes in the brain cells, which changes the concentration of transmitters and other biochemical substances locally. The consequence is an activation of nerve cells and the establishment of compensatory networks that improve the diseased brain function. This has been demonstrated in extensive laboratory studies. Recently, the first pilot study from the University of Vienna showed that this actually improves cognitive performance in Alzheimer's patients. The treatment in Parkinson's Disease is under investigation to date.

Only a few locations in Europe and Hong Kong use TPS so far. In combination with the Deep-TMS Unit, the Kempen site is probably unique in the world.

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"We are proud to be a pioneer once again and to be able to offer the full range of brain stimulation methods for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's here in Kempen." says chief physician Wojtecki.

The Hospital zum Heiligen Geist in Kempen is an academic teaching hospital of the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Germany. Due to the scientific affiliation of the chief physician Wojtecki at the University Hospital Düsseldorf (Institute of Clinical Neurosciences, working group "InterPHYS") a number of methods of neuromodulation are offered and tested.

In Kempen, the new treatment methods are carried out in the specially equipped Brain Stimulation Suite. The chief physician and his team informs about the treatment options.

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