

The effects of vagus nerve stimulation on intrinsic lower leg spinal motoneuron excitability in Parkinson's disease

Status: Recruiting

Eligibility Criteria

Sex: Male or Female

Age Group: 18 years and over

This study is also accepting healthy volunteers

Inclusion Criteria:

We are looking for people with Parkinson's Disease who have a diagnosis of PD and are between 21-76 years old. Participants must be able to walk without the use of an assistive device for more than 50 meters (164 feet). They must also be on stable medication for the preceding month and anticipated over the next 3 months.

Healthy volunteers

must be between 40-76 years old who will then be age matched to people in the study who have Parkinson's Disease. - See link to clinicaltrials.gov for complete Inclusion criteria

Exclusion Criteria:

- history of another significant neurological disorder including stroke, traumatic brain injury, intracranial aneurysm, intracranial hemorrhage, brain tumor - severe orthopedic or other related musculoskeletal disease that significantly affects gait - women who are pregnant - history of substance abuse in the past two years - unable to comprehend English - see link to clinicaltrials.gov for complete Exclusion criteria

Conditions & Interventions

Conditions:

Brain & Nervous System

Keywords:

Clinics and Surgery Center (CSC), Parkinson's Disease PD

More Information

Description: This study is designed to better understand the mechanisms contributing to impaired activation of leg muscles in people with Parkinson's disease (PD) and test if stimulation of a nerve at the neck (vagus nerve) can improve muscle activation, walking and balance. People can participate in one of two experiments, or both. Both experiments will test the muscle activation patterns in the lower leg when producing low levels of force. We will also assess walking and balance. Experiment 2 will test muscle activation patterns, walking and balance before and after vagus nerve stimulation. We are also asking people who don't have PD and are 21 to 76 years old and match in age and sex to participants to undergo the same study procedures.

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Phase: NA

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