Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS) Treatment Resistant Depression

Aurora
Robina
Private Hospital

What is rTMS?

rTMS is a non-invasive treatment most commonly used for depression, particularly when medications or psychological therapies have not been effective or are not well tolerated. It uses a magnetic coil placed on the scalp to deliver brief magnetic pulses to targeted areas of the brain involved in mood regulation. These pulses stimulate brain activity and aim to improve communication within mood-related neural circuits. rTMS is performed by our specialist team, does not require anaesthesia, and is generally well tolerated.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients must be aged 18 or older and need to have tried and failed two antidepressants of adequate dose & duration prior to commencing a course of rTMS

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Presence of ferromagnetic or magnetically sensitive metal in in or near the head including:
  - Aneurysm clips
  - Metal fragments in the eye or brain
  - Cochlear implants
  - Implanted brain stimulators
- History of seizures or epilepsy
- Active substance intoxication or withdrawal
- Some medications that can lower seizure risk

What to expect during treatment

- Preparation: You sit in a comfortable chair. No anesthesia is needed; you remain fully awake.
- Mapping: On day one, the technician finds the "motor threshold" to calibrate the magnet's strength.
- The Session: You will hear a "clicking" sound and feel a tapping sensation on your forehead.
- Recovery: You can drive yourself home and return to work or daily activities immediately

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Common side effects of rTMS include mild scalp discomfort, tingling, or headache during or after treatment. Fatigue or lightheadedness may occur. Serious side effects, such as seizures, are very rare. Most effects are temporary and resolve quickly, allowing you to continue daily activities without interruption.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Initial mapping cost to doctor: $300
Cost per treatment: $210
Medicare rebates will apply (up to 90% rebate may be payable once Medicare Safety Net reached).



CONTACT US

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