CONTACT US

To schedule a consultation with Dr. Jonathan Downar or more information, please contact us at:

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Are you struggling with an eating disorder?

Find out more about rTMS, a non-invasive brain stimulation treatment, for eating disorders.
rTMS and Eating Disorders

Dr. Jonathan Downar, Psychiatrist at Toronto Western Hospital and Director of the UHN rTMS Clinic, is currently offering MD consultation for eating disorder patients with bingeing and purging symptoms.

Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) is a non-invasive brain stimulation treatment. The goal is to target specific parts of the brain implicated in eating disorder pathology.

rTMS has proven to be a safe treatment option for individuals with eating disorders and has proven successful in treating depression and anxiety.

In our previous pilot study, 50% of eating disorder patients reported partial to full remittance after receiving rTMS.

Treatment Protocol

Standard of care involves 6 weeks of daily rTMS sessions administered during weekdays only, for a total of 30 rTMS sessions.

An MRI will be taken both prior to and following the course of treatment.

Four follow-up assessments will be conducted post treatment at:

- 1 week
- 1 month
- 3 months
- 6 months

rTMS may result in the reduction of eating disorder behaviours such as bingeing and purging, leading to an improved quality of life.

Safety Concerns

Frequently experienced side effects of rTMS include fatigue and headaches. More serious side effects such as hypomania and seizure occur at less than 1% and 0.01% respectively.

Eligibility

→ A diagnosis of Anorexia Nervosa – binge/purge subtype or Bulimia Nervosa for at least 6 months

→ Have not seen results following a previous course of treatment for the eating disorder such as pharmaceuticals or psychotherapy

→ Male or Female, aged 18-65 years old inclusive

For more information please visit us at www.rtmsclinic.ca