

Clinical Indications for the use of Dopaminergic Functional Imaging

Dopaminergic functional imaging has been shown to be a useful adjunct to the clinical diagnosis of movement disorders in some settings. In general, the risk of functional imaging is justified when the outcome of the examination will help to dictate clinical management. Accurate diagnosis can prevent exposure to inefficacious treatments, improve prognostic abilities and improve cost efficiency. Scenarios in which the result of dopaminergic functional imaging may prove helpful in determining therapeutic interventions include:

- 1) Patients with tremor that is not clearly differentiated into either essential tremor or Parkinsonian tremor.
- 2) Patients with tremor or other features of Parkinsonism in the context of treatment with dopamine-blocking medications known to induce Parkinsonism to determine if the Parkinsonism is likely to be purely drug-induced or if there is an underlying neurodegenerative condition.
- 3) Patients with possible psychogenic Parkinsonism.
- 4) Patients with tremor of unclear etiology that is not responsive to dopaminergic replacement therapies and are being considered for deep brain stimulation therapy.