

2002

2001-2003

One of the most impressive studies on the outcomes of the two treatments for [intracranial aneurysms](#), the [International Subarachnoid Aneurysm Trial \(ISAT\)](#) was presented in 2002 ¹⁾. It suggested that the [ruptured intracranial aneurysm](#) treated [endovascularly](#) had a better one-year outcome, maintained at seven years, in terms of neurodisability and [seizures](#). An increased risk of delayed [rebleeding](#) compared with the aneurysm treated surgically was seen. The practice of radiological follow up to identify the possible recurrence was encouraged, and rates of prophylactic retreatment following endovascular therapy were noted to be higher than for open surgery.

The [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) approved [Deep brain stimulation DBS](#) as a treatment for [essential tremor](#) in 1997, for [Parkinson's disease](#) in 2002, [dystonia](#) in 2003, and [obsessive-compulsive disorders](#), in 2009. DBS is also used in research studies to treat [chronic pain](#), PTSD, and has been used to treat various affective disorders, including [major depression](#); neither of these applications of DBS have yet been FDA-approved. While DBS has proven effective for some patients, potential for serious complications and side effects exists.

In 2002, Lindsay et al. in the [United Kingdom](#) mentioned that performing many operative [\[\[procedure\]\]](#)s does not necessarily mean that the trainee has received good [training](#); nor does it ensure that the [procedures](#) were performed well. Furthermore, they underscored that if a training committee were to set a target number of [procedures](#), the danger is that trainees would spend their time chasing operative numbers rather than ensuring that they obtain balanced neurosurgical training ²⁾.

¹⁾

Molyneux A, Kerr R, Stratton I, et al. International subarachnoid aneurysm trial (ISAT) of neurosurgical clipping versus endovascular coiling in 2143 patients with ruptured intracranial aneurysms: a randomised trial. *Lancet*. 2002;360:1267-74.

²⁾

Lindsay KW. Neurosurgical training in the United Kingdom and Ireland: assessing progress and attainment. *Neurosurgery*. 2002;50:1103-1111.

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