
从退行性脑疾病到忧郁症
为现代人的精神健康，提供新的解决方案

neurive
support for new life

市场性

相关疾病_抑郁症

精神健康的重要性增大

韩国抑郁症患者人数:70万人/年均增长7%

< 抑郁症患者诊疗趋势 >



世界抑郁症药物市场：180亿美元 (2024)

< Global Depression Drugs Market Size and Forecast >

Source : Variant Market Research
单位：US\$ Billion



COVID-19引起的精神健康问题抬头趋势

| 类型 | 2020年上半年 | | 增减率 | |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | 门诊费用 (亿韩元) | 门诊费用 (亿韩元) | 门诊天数 (千天) | 门诊费用 (亿韩元) |
| 总计 | 234,772 | 82,398 | -13.6 | -0.3 |
| 内科 | 46,127 | 14,989 | -7.7 | 0.9 |
| 精神科 | 6,138 | 3,327 | 10.4 | 18.2 |
| 外科 | 5,555 | 2,945 | -6.2 | 3.9 |
| 普通外科 | 26,854 | 9,062 | -7.4 | 0.7 |
| 麻醉疼痛科 | 6,887 | 3,801 | -5.9 | 3.6 |
| 妇产科 | 6,832 | 5,067 | -7.4 | 20.3 |
| 儿科 | 13,981 | 2,367 | -43.2 | -38.3 |
| 眼科 | 16,087 | 9,178 | -9.8 | 4.2 |
| 耳鼻喉科 | 23,484 | 5,666 | -29.9 | -20.5 |
| 皮肤科 | 9,949 | 2,551 | 2.5 | 8.9 |
| 泌尿外科 | 6,073 | 2,753 | -1.5 | 15.3 |
| 全科 | 50,043 | 14,812 | -11.6 | -1.3 |
| 其它 | 16,762 | 5,876 | -8.0 | 2 |

中国抑郁症患者情况

Prevalence of depressive disorders and treatment in China: a cross-sectional epidemiological study



Jin Lu, Xiufeng Xu*, Yueqin Huang, Tao Li, Chao Ma, Guangming Xu, Huifang Yin, Xiangdong Xu, Yanjuan Ma, Limin Wang, Zhengjing Huang, Yongping Yan, Bo Wang, Shuiyuan Xiao, Liang Zhou, Lingjiang Li, Yan Zhang, Hongguang Chen, TingTing Zhang, Jie Yan, Hua Ding, Yaqin Yu, Changgui Kou, Zonglin Shen, Linling Jiang, Zhizhong Wang, Xian Sun, Yifeng Xu, Yanling He, Wanjun Guo, Lijun Jiang, Shengyan Li, Wen Pan, YueWu, Guohua Li, Fujun Jia, Jianfei Shi, Zhongxia Shen, Ning Zhang*

中国抑郁症患者有三千万，但咨询人数只有三百万，仅9%的咨询率

中国人口的16.5%经历各种的心理和精神问题。中国全国人口大约为14.5亿，其中2.4亿人口经历大大小小的精神困扰。

据《2006年中国全国残疾人调查》统计，中国的残疾人占全国人口的6.34%，约830万名，残疾人中患有精神疾病的人数占残疾人数的7.4%，约61万名。

根据调查，中国的抑郁症患者数为2940万名。大部分抑郁症患者未能接受正确的治疗。抑郁症患者咨询率为9.5%，治疗率也只达到6.8%。

市场性

失眠症

中国睡眠市场规模增加



中国，失眠患者达到3亿，睡眠经济持续高涨

정신신 | 입력 2023.03.27 10:07 | 수정 2023.03.27 11:25



사진=웨이보

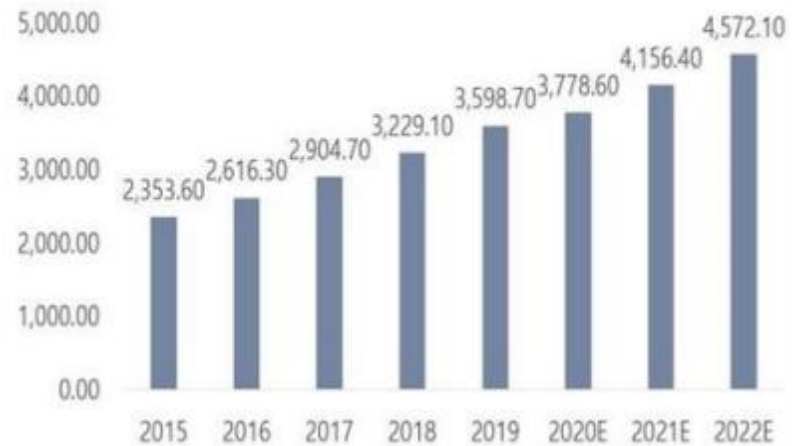
중국경제 성장에서 소비축진 측면에서 '수면경제'가 새로운 특색있는 '특수 경제'의 중요한 영역이 되었다고 27일 중국증권일보가 보도했다.

두표연구원의 데이터에 따르면 중국의 불면증 성인 환자 수는 2016년 2억5000만 명에서 2021년 2억8000만 명으로 증가했다.

연평균 복합 성장률 2.75%를 적용시 2030년에는 3억3000만 명에 달할 전망이며 불면증 환자가 점차 줄어지는 추세를 보이고 있다고 덧붙였다.

中国睡眠市场规模和市场展望

单位：亿元



各品种市场占有率



市场性

相关疾病-老年痴呆/认知障碍

老龄化加速需要制定对老年痴呆的医学和社会对策

老龄化社会，向痴呆症宣战的中国… “65岁老人要每年进行体检”



应对老龄化中国政府开始进行老年痴呆防治。地方政府为65岁以上人群每年进行一次认知功能初筛。

17日，香港SCMP引用中国卫健委向地方卫健委下发的通知说到，中国政府正着手推进老年痴呆患者防治3年计划。

卫健委谈到，老年痴呆防治的目标是提高公众对老年痴呆的认识、改善识别患者的能力、加强陪护教育等。有条件的地区应结合实际为辖区内65岁及以上常住居民每年提供1次认知功能初筛，提早发现痴呆高风险人群和疑似痴呆人群，指导其可以及时到有关机构就诊。

卫健委将指导有条件的地区，结合实际对记忆门诊工作人员和看护人员进行专项培训，社区服务中心为老年痴呆患者提供认知激活、运动康复、生活照料、情绪管理等照护。

中国的痴呆患病率高于世界平均水平。去年3月，据“普通精神医学”中刊登的“中国阿尔茨海默报告”中显示，中国每10万名中就有788.3名患有此病。这比世界平均（每10万名中682.5名）更高。中国60岁以上的痴呆患者有1500万名，其中阿兹海默患者为983万名。

中国关注痴呆问题的原因在于老龄化。世界卫生组织预计到2040年为止，中国60岁以上人口占全国人口的28%。这是比2020年（18.7%）增加十个百分点的数据。截止到去年，中国65岁以上人口是2.978亿占全国人口的14.9%。

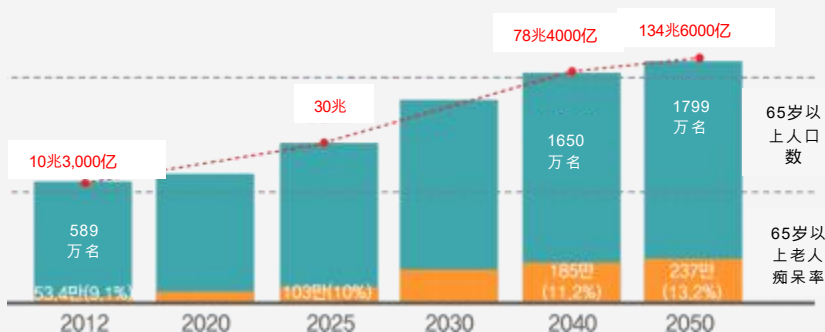
SCMP谈到痴呆是中国五大死亡原因之一，但中国社会对痴呆的理解程度低。

相关疾病_痴呆症/认知功能障碍

老龄化加速需要制定针对痴呆症的医学/社会对策

痴呆症患者人数及管理费用

< 国内痴呆症患者人数:80万人/年均增长10% >



治疗痴呆症的药物市场规模

- ✓ 乙酰胆碱分解酶抑制剂 (ACEI) 种类及处方液
- ✓ 全球10.8万亿韩元, 国内2000亿韩元市场

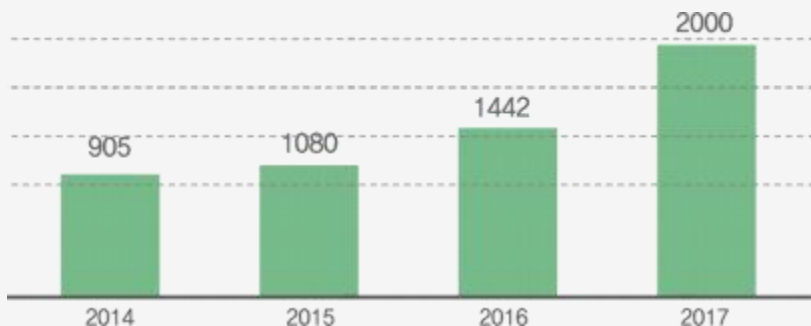
(单位:亿)

| 成分名 | 2013年 | 2014年 | 2015年 | 2016年 | 市场占有率 |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 多奈哌齐 | 859 | 1123 | 1309 | 1472 | 78.2% |
| 盐酸美金刚 | 96 | 109 | 149 | 174 | 9.2% |
| 胆碱酯酶抑制剂 | 172 | 200 | 183 | 140 | 7.4% |
| 加兰他敏 | 89 | 92 | 96 | 96 | 5.1% |
| 合计 | 1252 | 1525 | 1737 | 1182 | 100% |

脑功能改善剂国内市场

< 甘磷酸胆碱成分标准 >

(单位:亿)



资料:医药品调查机构IMS数据

世界痴呆症相关市场规模

✓ 全球960兆韩元市场

(单位: US\$ Billion)



Source : Variant Market Research

技术性

治疗退行性脑疾病的新的突破口



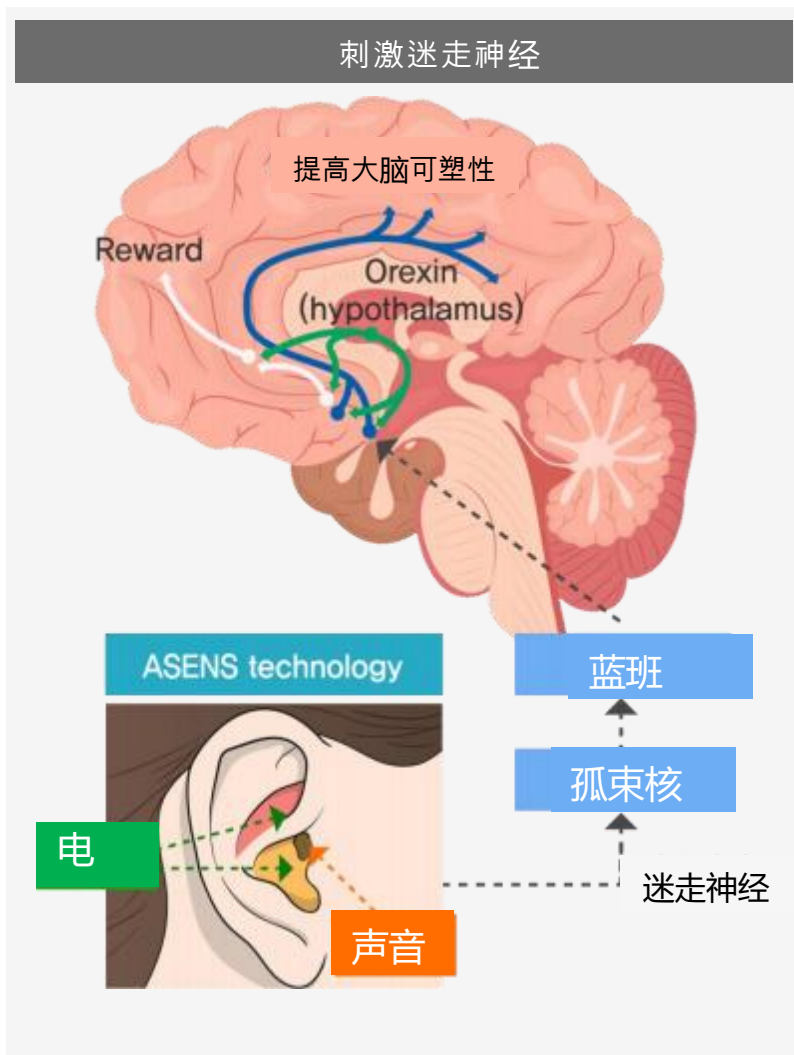
ASENS技术

ASENS 技术: 用声音和电刺激迷走神经激活大脑的技术

技术性

唯一能刺激大脑深部的技术_感情/情绪的调节

刺激迷走神经技术相关的国内唯一电子药/数码治疗剂企业

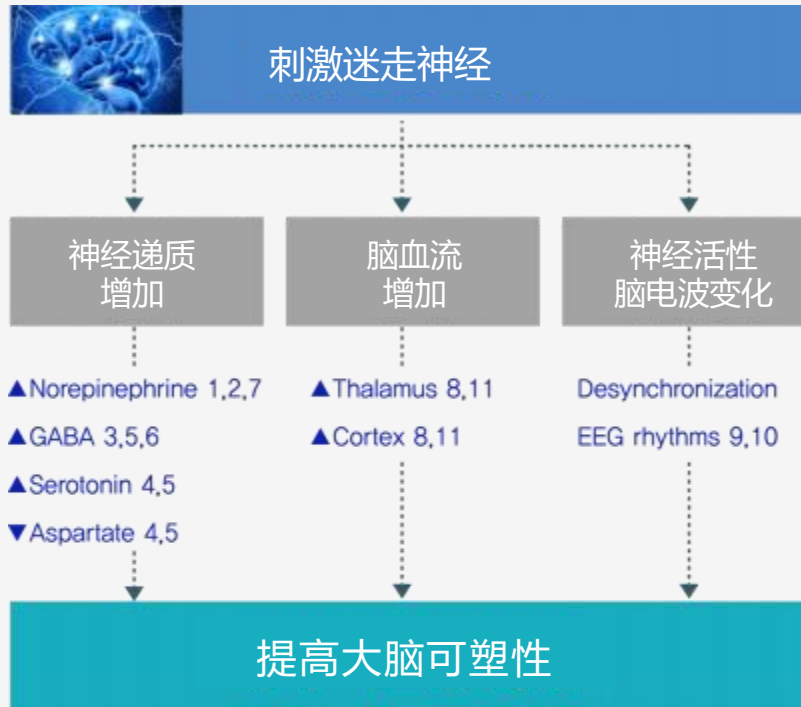
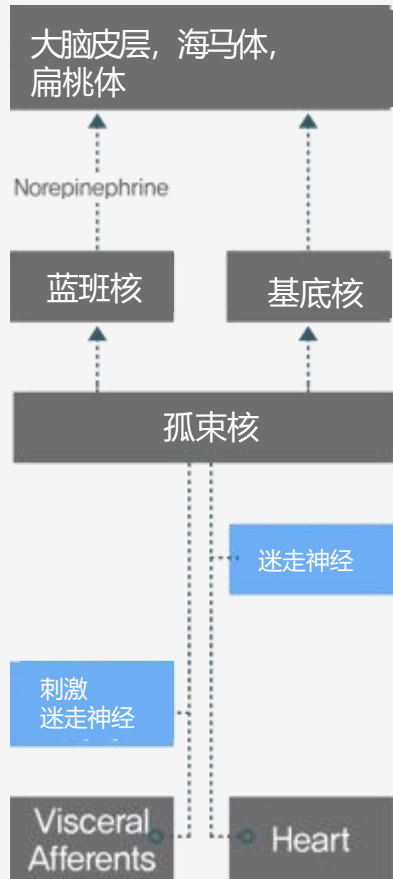
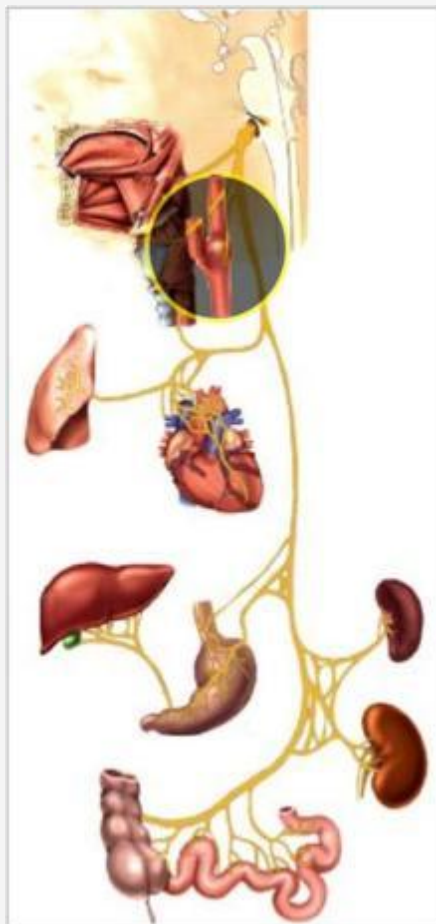


耳鸣
忧郁症
失眠症
痴呆
认知功能障碍
肥胖
慢性疼痛
癫痫

技术性

刺激迷走神经

刺激迷走神经是被很多人验证过的技术

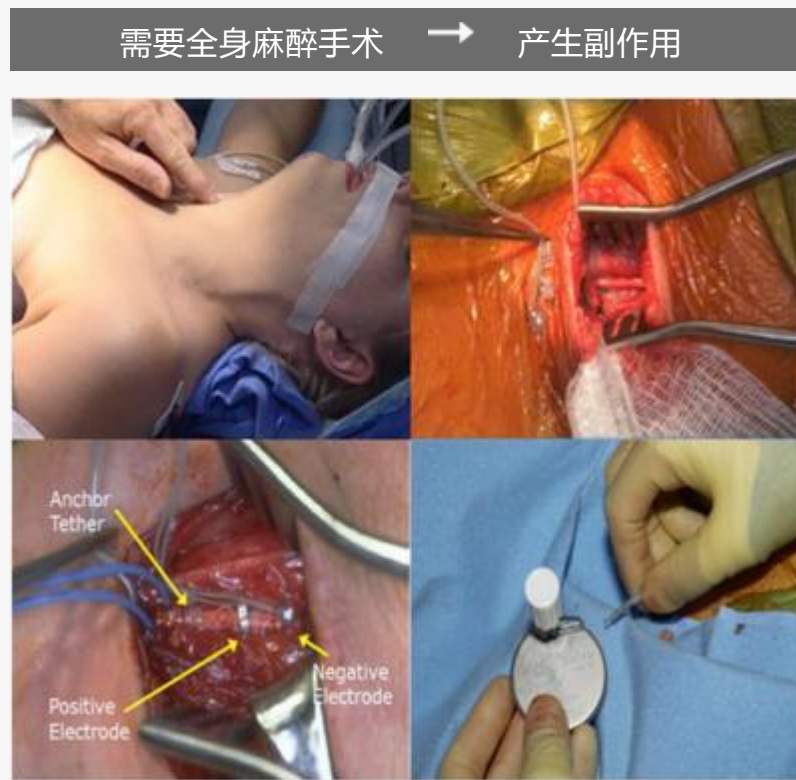


- ▲ Norepinephrine 1,2,7
 - ▲ GABA 3,5,6
 - ▲ Serotonin 4,5
 - ▼ Aspartate 4,5
 - ▲ Thalamus 8,11
 - ▲ Cortex 8,11
 - Desynchronization EEG rhythms 9,10
1. Roosevelt RW, et al. Brain Res 2006;1119(1):124-32. 2. Hassert DL, et al. Behavioral Neuroscience 2004;118(1):79-88. 3. Woodbury DM and Woodbury JW. Epilepsia 1990;31(Suppl.2):S7-S19. 4. Hammond BM, et al. Brain Research 1992;583:300-3. 5. Ben-Menachem E, et al. Epilepsy Res 1995;20:221-7. 6. Marrosu F, et al. Epilepsy Res 2003;55:59-70. 7. Krahl S, et al. Epilepsia. 1998;39:709-714. 8. Henry TR, et al. Epilepsia. 2004;45(9):1064-1070. 9. Wang Het al., J Neurosci. 2009;in press. 10. Koo B. J Clin Neurophysiol. 2001;18:434-441. 11. Vonck K, et al. Seizure 2008;17(8):699-706

技术性

侵入性迷走神经刺激装置_抑郁症/癫痫症相关技术，获得国内外许可

市场规模年均5000亿韩元，年均增长12.5%



副作用:硬件故障:2.7%感染:3.5%沙哑的声音，吞咽困难，死亡:5.4%

技术性

非侵入性神经刺激装置（海外） 产品

不能刺激迷走神经部位，治疗效果有限

| 制造商 |  |  | parasym |  |  |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|
| 产品名 | gamma Core™, gammaCore Sapphire™ | NEMOS®, VITOS® | The Parasym™ | Xen® | NSS-2 Bridge |
| 产品图像 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 适应症 | 偏头痛·头痛 | 脑栓塞·耳鸣 | 耳鸣 | 睡眠，压力，冥想 | 麻药类戒断症状缓解 |
| 特征 | 电O, 声音X 颈部皮肤刺激 | 电O, 声音X | 电O, 声音X | 电O, 声音X 颈部皮肤刺激 | 电O, 声音X |
| 价格 | \$598每月 | NEMOS® €2,436.00 VITOS® €973.82 | £599 (仅供研究用销售) | 电O, 声音O App | \$1,195 |
| FDA | 申报 O (DEN150048, K191830) | X | 申报/批准免除对象 | X | 申报 O (DEN170018) |
| CE | \$598每月 | NEMOS 许可 O | 许可 O | \$598每月 | 不可确认 |

技术性

Soricle的差别性和优秀性



声音+电能提高治疗效果

用个人医疗器械增加便利性

侵袭性



VS

非侵入性的



两侧外迷走神经的非侵入性刺激

确保临床有效性资料

技术性

开发管道

1 电子药

• Soricle(医疗器械)

-通过电/声音刺激迷走神经 (Vagus Nerve) ,
通过大脑塑性(Brain Plasticity)及大脑活性化
以改善耳鸣症状为目的开发



2 消费者家电

• Healaon (健康机器)

- 以刺激迷走神经(Vagus Nerve)、通过激活副交感减少压力、提高集中力/竞技力等为目的开发的产品



3 数码治疗剂 (Digital Therapeutics)

• SoriCLEAR (软件医疗器械)

- 用于认知行为治疗、李明载训练治疗等,
通过改善认知(Cognitive)要素
改善耳鸣症状



事业性

Soricle事业现状

个人医疗器械 → 不收费也可以创造收益

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 效能·效果 | <p>通过声音和电, 刺激外耳迷走神经(VNS), 可实现 大脑可塑性及大脑活性化 ， 最终达到 = 治疗退行性脑疾病的目的</p> |
| 使用方法 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 每天30分钟, 每周5天, 施行4周*  |
| 事业方向 及 上市时间 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 量产试剂• 国内许可用临床试验正在进行中 (耳鸣) |

刺激迷走神经

神经递质增加 脑血流增加 神经活性
脑电波变化

提高大脑可塑性



Soricle 国内 유일 비침습적 VNS 기기

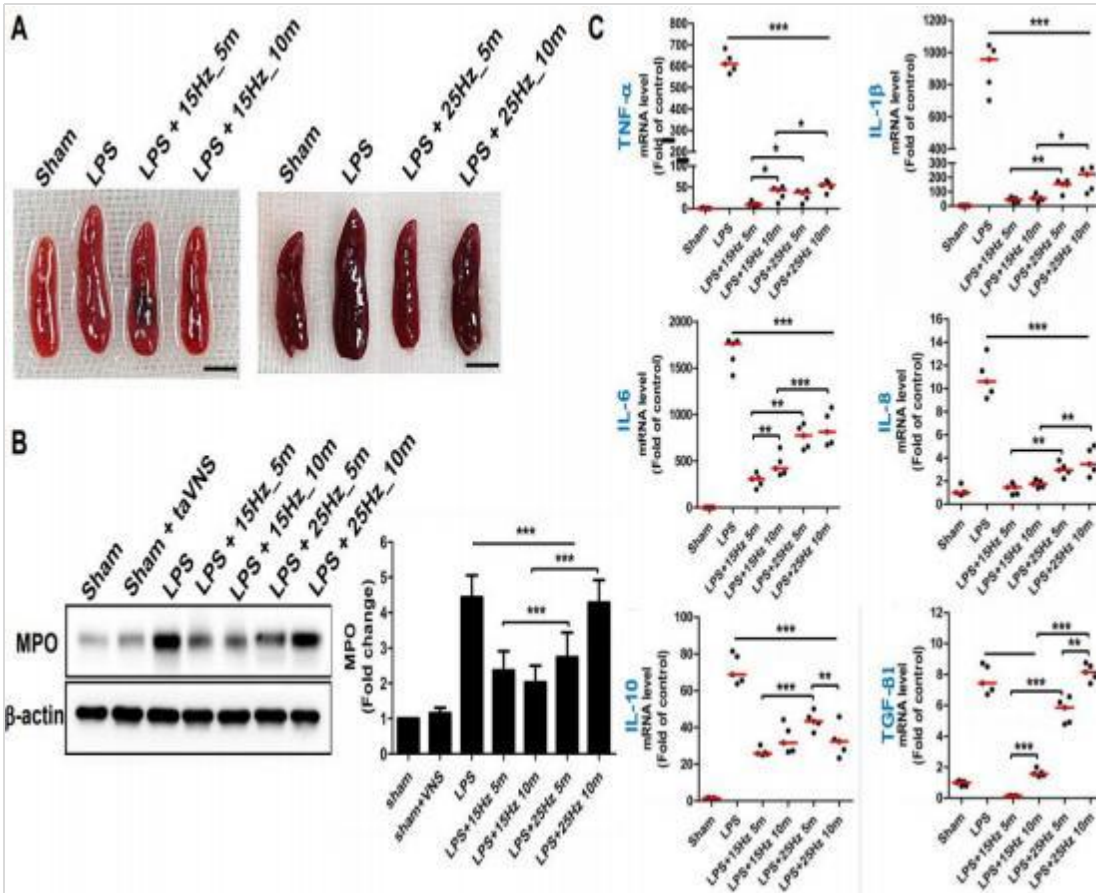
Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) 기술

ARENS technology

技术性

VNS和全身炎症

- ✓ 刺激迷走神经治疗全身炎症
- ✓ 对运动后全身炎症及恢复也会产生影响



Different Transcutaneous Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation Parameters Modulate the Anti-Inflammatory Effects on Lipopolysaccharide-Induced Acute Inflammation in Mice

Yoon-Young Go ^{1,2}, Won-Min Ju ¹, Chan-Mi Lee ¹, Sung-Won Chae ^{1,2} and Jae-Jun Song ^{1,2,3,*}

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- ² Institute for Health Care Convergence Center, Korea University Guro Hospital, Seoul 0800, Korea
- ³ Neuro Institute, Neuro Co., Ltd, Seoul 0800, Korea
- * Correspondence: jongsong23@gmail.com or erbsong@korea.ac.kr; Tel.: +82-2-2626-5186; Fax: +82-2-2626-6479

Abstract: Vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) is considered a potential method for anti-inflammation due to the involvement of the VN in the cholinergic anti-inflammatory pathway (CAP) formation of a connection between the central nervous system and peripheral immune cells that help relieve inflammation. However, whether a non-invasive transcutaneous auricular VNS (taVNS) modulates the inflammation level via altering the parameter of taVNS is poorly understood. This study aimed to determine the differential inhibitory effects of taVNS on lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced systemic inflammation using electrical stimulation parameters such as pulse frequency and time. The taVNS-promoted CAP activity significantly recovered LPS-induced tissue injuries (lung, spleen, and intestine) and decreased inflammatory cytokine levels and tissue-infiltrated immune cells. Interestingly, the anti-inflammatory capacity of taVNS with 15 Hz was much higher than that of taVNS with 25 Hz. When a cytokine array was used to investigate the changes of inflammation and immune response-related cytokines/chemokines expression in taVNS with 15 Hz or 25 Hz treatment in LPS-induced endotoxemia in mice, most of the expression of cytokines/chemokines associated with pro-inflammation was severely decreased in taVNS with 15 Hz compared to 25 Hz. This study demonstrated that the taVNS parameter could differentially modulate the inflammation levels of animals, suggesting the importance of taVNS parameter selection for use in feasible interventions for acute inflammation treatment.

Keywords: transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS); anti-inflammation; cytokines; electrical stimulation parameters; coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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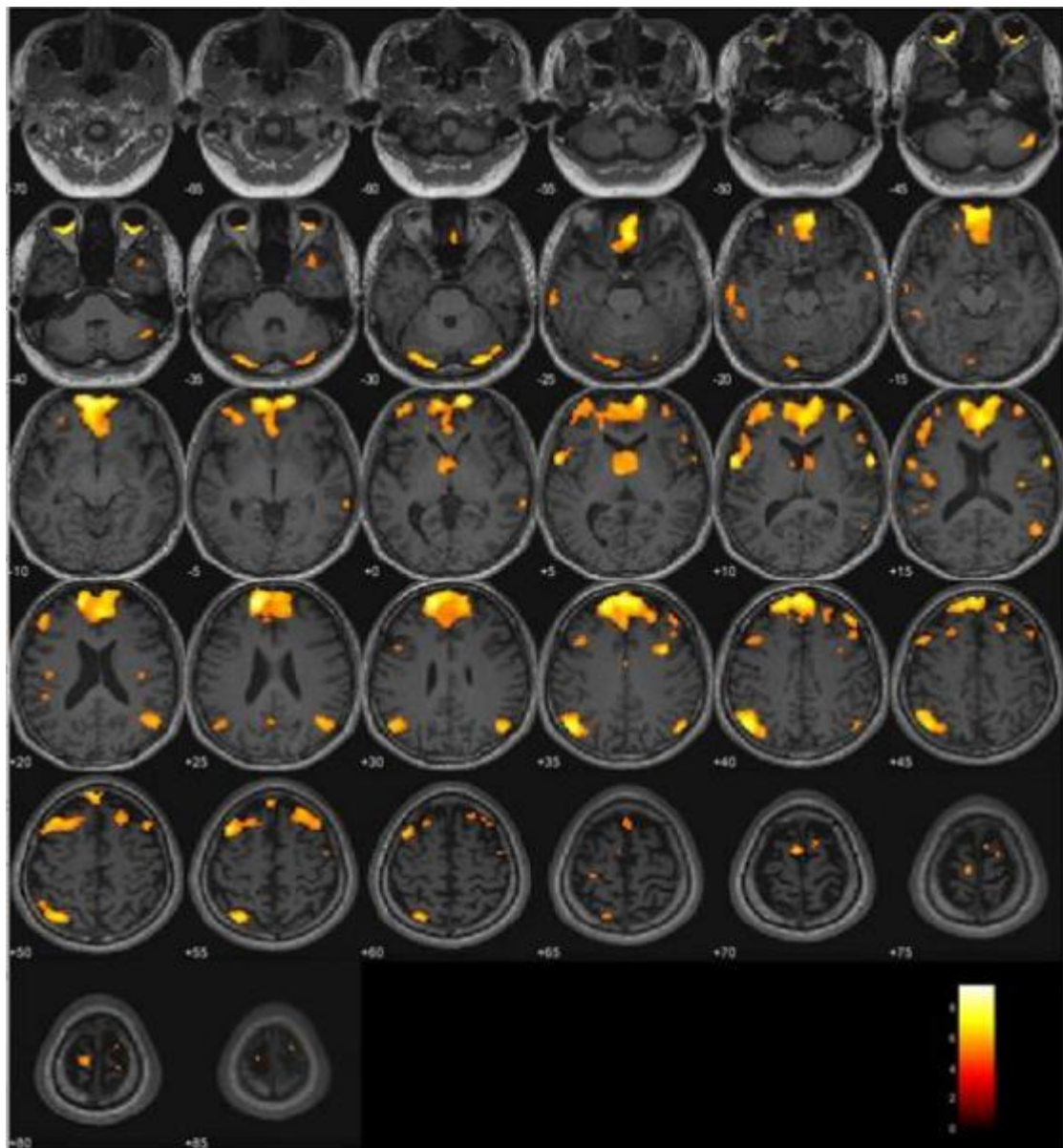
技术性

FMRI研究

✓ 活性化 部位

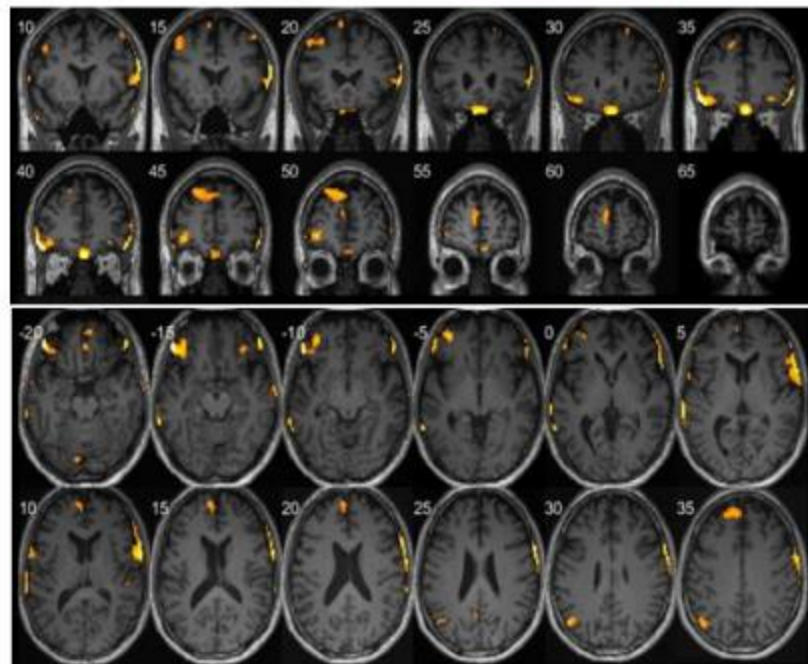
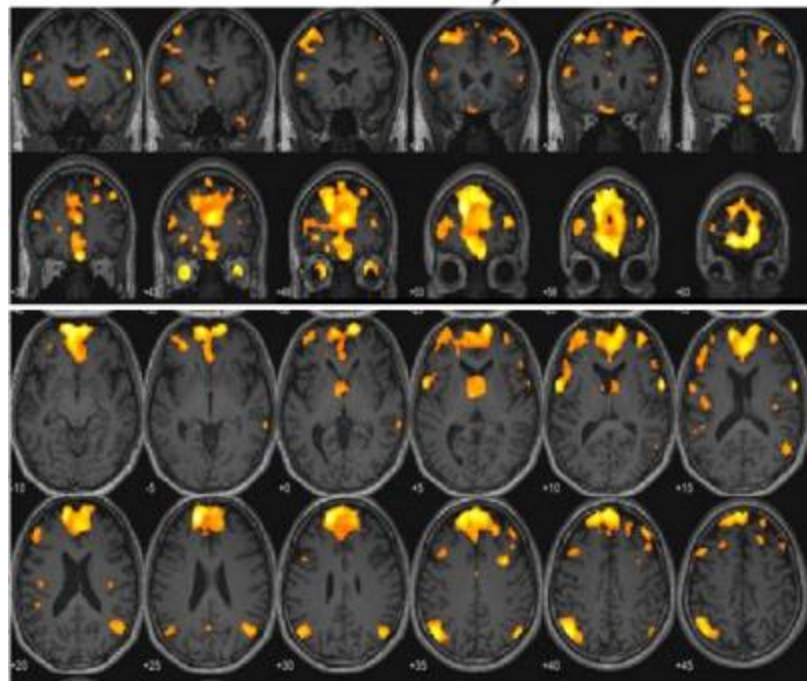
- 边缘系
- 前前额叶

- 鉴定/情绪/认知担当
- 与忧郁症/失眠症/不安症/耳鸣/痴呆等有关



应用性

同类竞争产品比较



VS

事业性

healaon事业现状

效能·效果

- 以通过声音和电力刺激迷走神经(VNS)、通过激活副交感减少压力、提高集中力、提高体育竞技能力等，以改善生活质量为目的开发的健康机器

使用方法



产品开发后台

- 副交感神经的神经介质为乙酰胆碱荷尔蒙，有助于睡眠、伤口治疗、改善消化功能，能够使身体得到适当休息。

事业方向及上市时间

- 获得KC认证(2022年5月)
- B2G/2022年7月



技术性

healaon 电器

消除压力，强化集中力，呵护精神健康



心理保健用非医疗用消费者家用电器

痴呆症安心中心

A screenshot of a website for dementia care. The page is in Korean and features a clean, organized layout with various icons and text blocks. The main heading is "痴呆症安心中心" (Dementia安心 Center). Below the heading, there are several columns of text and images, including a photo of an elderly couple. The bottom of the page has a navigation bar.

销售网点建设

保健所/ 老人福利馆

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass facade. The building is identified as a welfare center. The text "노인복지관" (Elderly Welfare Center) is visible on the building's facade.

老人福利设施:8万多个

国家创伤中心

A screenshot of a website for a national trauma center. The page is in Korean and features a blue and white color scheme. The main heading is "国家创伤中心" (National Trauma Center). Below the heading, there are several columns of text and images, including a photo of a person in a medical setting. The bottom of the page has a navigation bar.

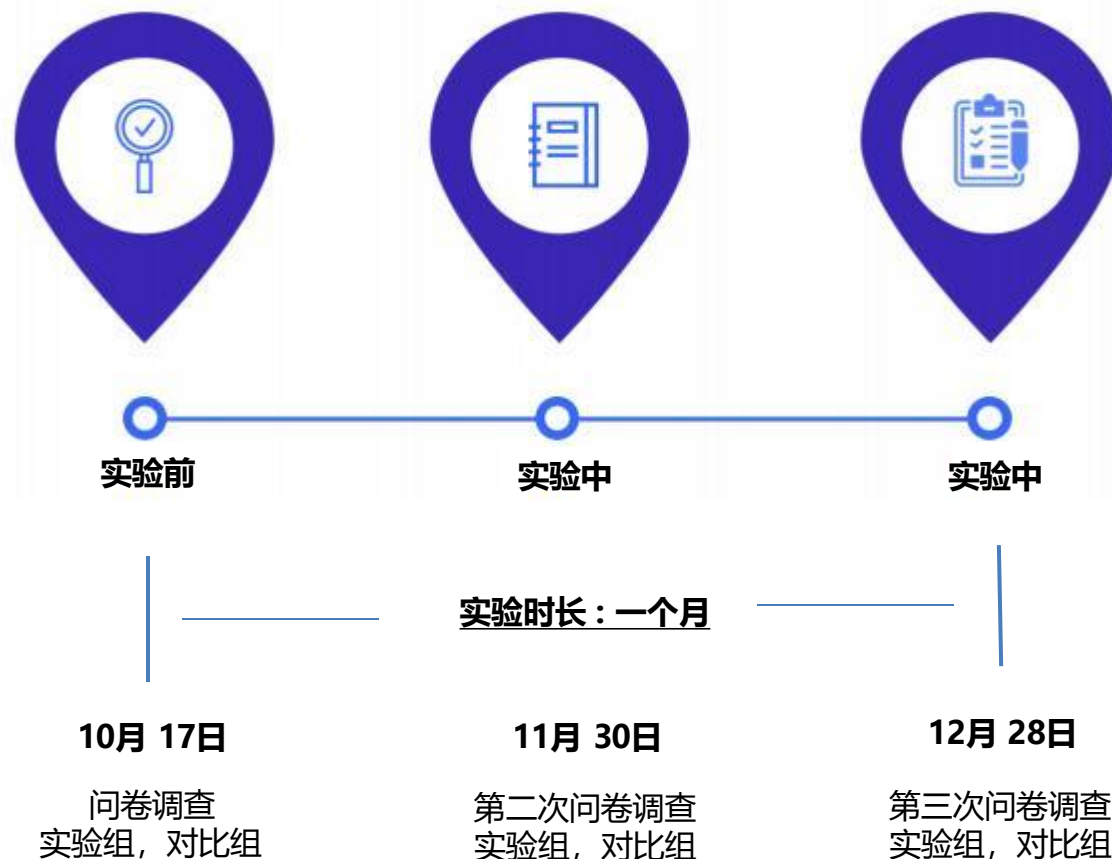
浦项地震创伤中心
进行中

体育政策科学院

A screenshot of a website for a sports policy academy. The page is in Korean and features a blue and white color scheme. The main heading is "体育政策科学院" (Sports Policy Academy). Below the heading, there are several columns of text and images, including a photo of a person in a laboratory setting. The bottom of the page has a navigation bar.

吉世基博士团队正在进行共同研究

问卷调查，实验时长

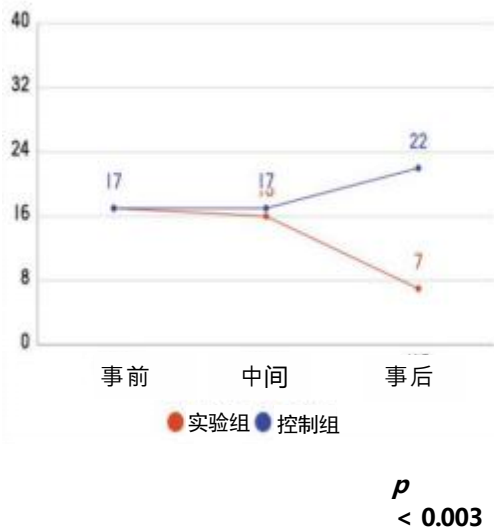


结果1_压力和抑郁变化

事前 中间 事后

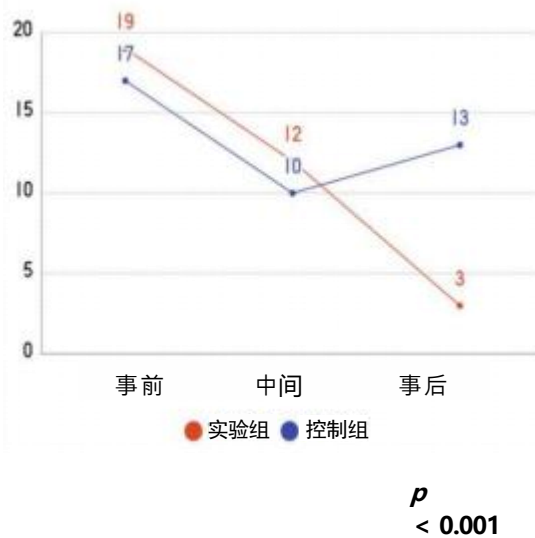
一般压力变化

66% 改善



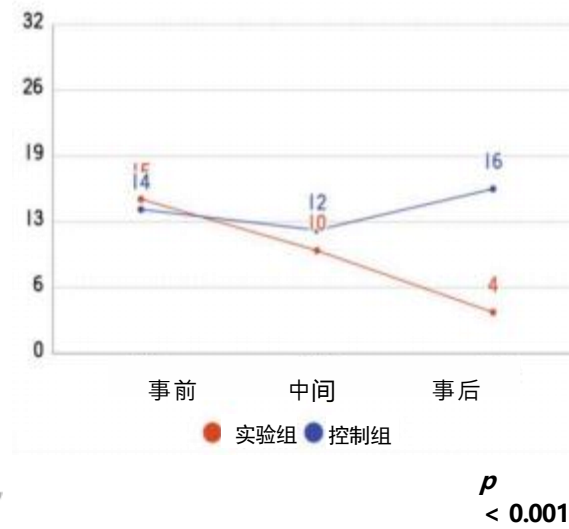
抑郁变化 - 1

76% 改善



抑郁变化 - 2

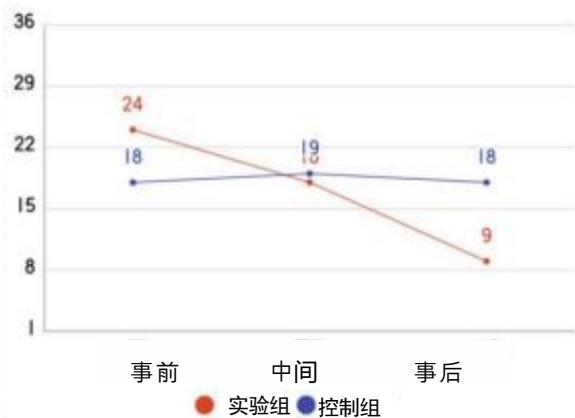
74% 改善



结果2_不安情绪和自信感变化

认知不安变化

63% 改善



$p < 0.5$

身体不安变化

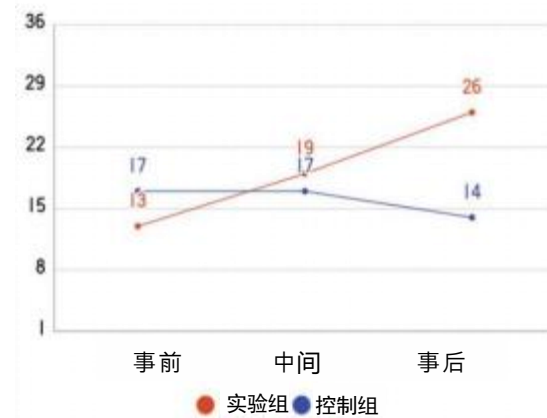
65% 改善



$p < 0.005$

自信感变化

143% 增加



$p < 0.05$

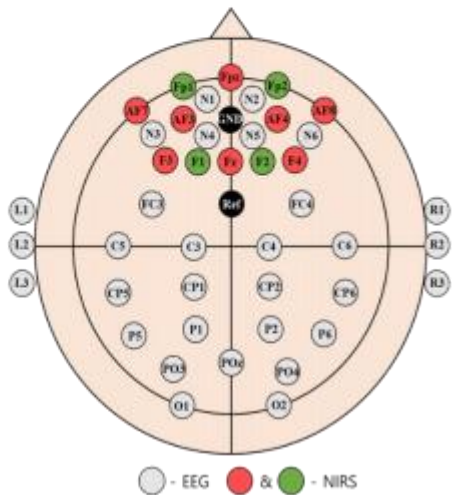
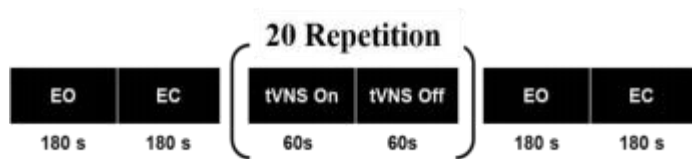
技术性

脑电波研究

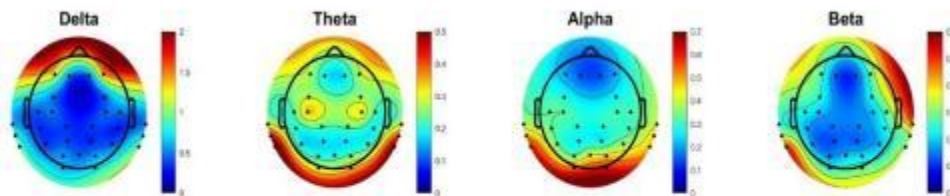
进行Soricle VNS治疗后的EEG变化

✓ 阿尔法波

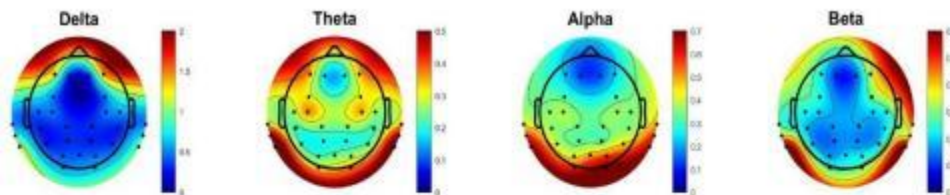
- 给药期间，松弛度、认知、压力缓解均有所改善



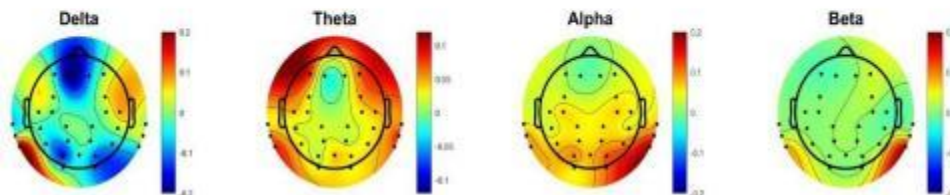
治疗前



治疗后



变化



技术性

声音清澈_治疗耳鸣用的数码治疗剂



医院就诊

问诊/咨询/
检查/处方



根据耳鸣
程度
分流患者

听力/耳鸣
测试分析

针对性认知行动治疗 (认知再构成)

治疗视频

思考记录本

功能类型
情感类型
认知类型

针对性
治疗内容视
频

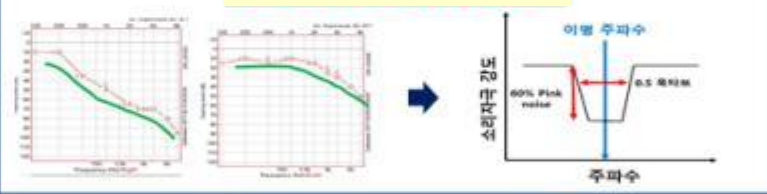
记录在思
考记录本
上

实时
矫正

耳鸣
评价

治疗
结束

生成符合患者病情的音频



处方

治疗开始

阶段评估

阶段评估

最终评价

6周/30板块




医院使用平板

+

在智能手机进行自测&定期就诊

事业性

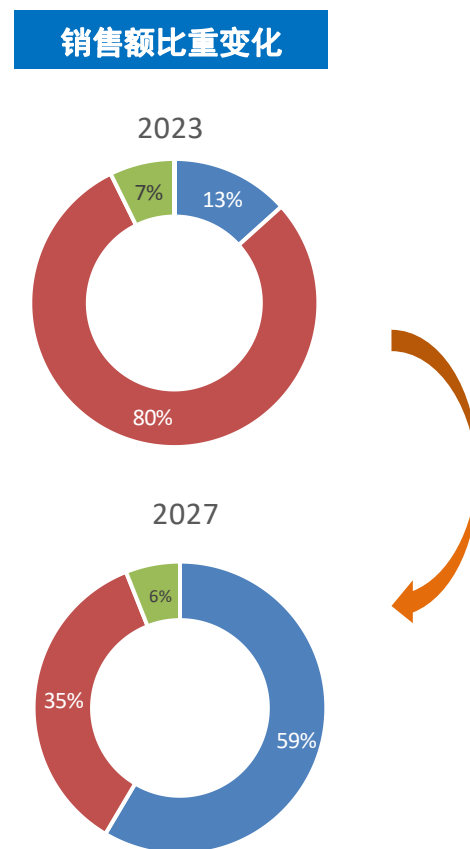
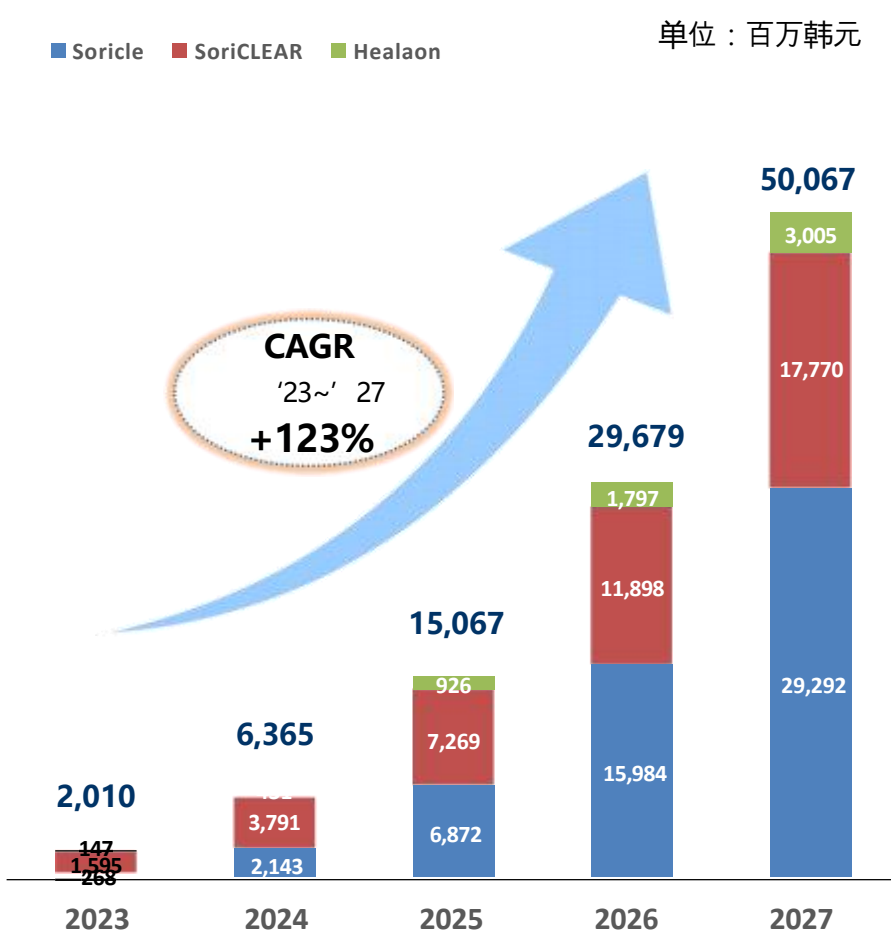
事业计划

| 产品 | 区分 | 适应症 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|----|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|
|  sorice (Soricle) | 国内 | 耳鸣 | 国内临床试验 (耳鸣) 获得品种许可 | 国内销售 | |
| | | 失眠症 | 国内临床试验 (失眠症) 获得品种许可 | 国内销售 | |
| | | 抑郁症 | | 国内临床试验 (抑郁症) 获得品种许可 | 国内销售 |
| | 海外 | 抑郁症 | 哈佛大学联合研究 美国临床试验 (抑郁症) | 美国临床试验 (耳鸣) | 获得FDA认可 |
|  healaon (healaon) | 国内 | 强化集中力 | | 国内销售 | |
| | | Mental Health | sports 临床试验 | 国内销售 | |
| | | 减压 | 创伤中心临床试验 | 国内销售 | |
|  SoriCLEAR (SorCLEAR) | 国内 | 耳鸣 | 国内临床试验 (耳鸣) 获得品种许可 | 国内销售 | |

事业性

销售计划_3个产品管道

- ✓ 从耳鸣治疗器械SoriCLEAR（电子药）和Soricle（数码治疗剂）上市的时间（2023年4Q）开始，销售额将会急速上升



创业团队

创业团队的专业性

低成本高效率结构/较低烧钱率/开发时间3年

| | |
|-------|---|
| 公司名称 | (株) Neurive (Neurive Co, Ltd) |
| 代表理事 | 宋在俊 |
| 成立日 | 2018.4.20 |
| 总社 | 金海市酒村面所望街88,205号 (医疗实用化中心) |
| 资本金 | 1.3亿元 |
| 大股东股份 | 宋在俊(68.0%), 2017 Magna Instar基金(8.2%), SLINEXT Innovation基金(6.0%) |



| | |
|---|--|
| 沿革 | 2018.4 设立法人 |
| | 2020.3 风险企业认证 |
| | 2020.3 选定技术保证基金的U-TECH Valley项目 |
| | 2020.5 种子子公司招商引资 (Magna Investment) |
| | 2020.6 被选定TIPS项目 |
| | 2020.6 被选定为初创模范事业 |
| | 2020.5 Pre-A招商引资 (Magna Investment, SL Investment) |
| | 2020.6 本社搬迁 |
| | 2020. 1 Follow on 投资 (Magna Investment) |
| | 2022. 12 选定为原材料、零部件、装备开发项目 |
| 2022.12系列A招商引资 (新韩风险投资、 BigBang Angels、庆南风险投资、 F1 Partners股份公司) | |
| 2022.12 规模升级, 选定为技术开发项目 | |



KC 认证



GMP 认证



创业团队的专业性

学会保险理事_进入新技术医疗制度圈



CEO 宋在俊

高丽大学医学院学士

高丽大学医学院硕/博士

现高丽大学九老医院耳鼻喉科科长

作为耳鼻喉科专家，拥有大量研究开发经验
现有研发无法解决的未满足的医疗需求

研究业绩

University of Michigan 交换教授

SCI论文:100多篇 教科书著述: 4本

完成多项医疗器械国家课题

正在进行各部门的医疗器械开发事业

医疗器械相关经历

食品医药品安全处医疗器械专门委员

大韩耳鼻喉科学会 保险委员

大韩理科学会 保险理事

大韩平衡医学会 保险理事

健康保险审查评价院 诊疗审查评价委员会 非常勤评价委员

健康保险审查评价院 医疗行为专门评价委员

韩国保健医疗研究院 外科界医疗专门委员会

经济性

海外网络_哈佛医学院

- ✓ Spaulding 医院内设立研究所
 - 暂用名: Spaulding Neurive神经调节中心
 - 共同研究及论文撰写
- ✓ FDA认证临床试验(2023)



Review Article

Understanding the Neuroplastic Effects of Auricular Vagus Nerve Stimulation in Animal Models of Stroke: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Paulo S. de Melo, MS^{1,2*}, João Parente, MS^{1,2*}, Ingrid Rebelo-Sanchez, MS^{1,2*}, Anna Marduy, MS^{1,4}, Anna Carolyn Gianlorenco, PhD^{2,5}, Chi Kyung Kim, PhD⁶, Hyuk Chol, PhD^{7,8}, Jae-Jun Song, PhD^{9,10}, and Felipe Fregni, PhD^{1,11}

Abstract Transcranial vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) is being studied as a feasible intervention for stroke, but the mechanisms by which this non-invasive technique acts in the cortex are still broadly unknown. Objectives: This study aimed to systematically review the current pre-clinical evidence in the auricular vagus nerve stimulation (aVNS) neuroplastic effects in stroke. **Methods:** We searched, in December of 2022, in Medline, Cochrane, Embase, and Lincx databases. The authors executed the extraction of the data on Excel. The risk of bias was evaluated by adapted Cochrane Collaboration's tool for animal studies (SYRCLES's RoB tool). **Results:** A total of 8 studies published between 2015 and 2022 were included in this review, including 391 animal models. In general, aVNS demonstrated a reduction in neurological deficits (SMD = -1.97, 95% CI -2.57 to -1.36, $P=44\%$), in time to perform the adhesive removal test (SMD = -2.26, 95% CI -4.45 to -0.08, $P=81\%$), and infarct size (SMD = -1.51, 95% CI -2.42 to -0.60, $P=50\%$). Regarding the neuroplasticity markers, aVNS showed to increase microcapillary density, CD31 proliferation, and BDNF protein levels and RNA expression. **Conclusions:** The studies analyzed show a trend of results that demonstrate a significant effect of the auricular vagus nerve stimulation in stroke animal models. Although the aggregated results show high heterogeneity and high risk of bias, more studies are needed to create solid conclusions.

Keywords stroke, auricular vagus nerve stimulation, animal models, meta-analysis, systematic review

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⁶Department of Medical Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine, Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea
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⁹These authors contributed equally to this work.

Supplementary material for this article is available on the *NeuroModulation & Neural Repair* website along with the online version of this article.

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scientific reports

OPEN Safety of transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS): a systematic review and meta-analysis

Angela Yun Kim^{1,2*}, Anna Marduy^{1,3,4}, Paulo S. de Melo^{1,5,6}, Anna Carolyn Gianlorenco^{1,5}, Chi Kyung Kim⁷, Hyuk Chol^{8,9}, Jae-Jun Song^{10,11} & Felipe Fregni^{1,2*}

Transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) has been investigated as a novel neuromodulation tool. Although taVNS is generally considered safe with only mild and transient adverse effects (AE), those specifically caused by taVNS have not yet been investigated. This systematic review and meta-analysis on taVNS aimed to (1) systematically analyze study characteristics and AE assessment, (2) characterize and analyze possible AEs and their incidence, (3) search for predictable risk factors, (4) analyze the severity of AE, and (5) suggest an evidence-based taVNS adverse events questionnaire for safety monitoring. The article searched was published through April 7, 2022, in Medline, Embase, Web of Science, Cochrane, and Lincx databases. In general, we evaluated 177 studies that assessed 4322 subjects. From these, 65.21% of studies did not mention the presence or absence of any AEs, only 24.89% of the studies described that at least one adverse event occurred, in the 22 studies reporting the number of subjects with at least one adverse event, a meta-analytic approach to calculate the risk difference of developing an adverse event between active taVNS and controls was used. The meta-analytic overall adverse events incidence rate was calculated for the total number of adverse events reported on a 100,000 person-minute-days scale. There was no difference in risk of developing an adverse event between active taVNS and controls. The incidence of AE, in general, was 11.84/100,000 person-minute days of stimulation, and the most frequently reported were ear pain, headache, and tingling. Almost half of the studies did not report the presence or absence of any AEs. We attribute this to the absence of AE in these studies. There was no causal relationship between taVNS and severe adverse events. This is the first systematic review and meta-analysis of transcutaneous auricular stimulation safety. Overall, taVNS is a safe and feasible option for clinical intervention.

The vagus nerve is a mixed nerve composed of 20k efferent fibers and 80k afferent fibers¹. It plays a major role in maintaining homeostasis over throughout in the brain, the thorax, and the abdomen. The vagus nerve stimulation (VNS), first approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1997 in the form of a cervical vagus nerve stimulator, is currently approved for drug resistant epilepsy, depression, and stroke^{2,3}. Further studies have shown promising results that VNS can treat disorders such as anxiety disorder, Alzheimer's disease, cluster head ache, heart failure, sepsis, lung injury, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, and diabetes^{4,5}. However, this clinical approach requires an invasive procedure that involves cervical dissection and foreign body application. Due to the potential risks of surgical complication, hospitalization cost, and accessibility, the application of the intervention is limited despite its demonstrated benefits. This epithelial afferent fibers of

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Systematic Review Electroencephalographic Patterns in taVNS: A Systematic Review

Anna Carolyn L. Gianlorenco^{1,2*}, Paulo S. de Melo^{1,3*}, Anna Marduy^{1,4}, Angela Yun Kim⁵, Chi Kyung Kim⁶, Hyuk Chol⁷, Jae-Jun Song^{8,9} & Felipe Fregni^{1,10}

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³ Medicine, Escola Bahiana de Medicina e Saúde Pública, Salvador 40291-000, Brazil
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⁵ Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Korea University Medical Center, Seoul 00058, Korea
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⁹ Correspondence: Felipe.fregni@mgh.harvard.edu
¹⁰ These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract Transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) is a newer delivery system using a non-invasive stimulation device placed at the ear. taVNS research is focused on clinical trials showing potential therapeutic benefits, however the neurophysiological effects of this stimulation on brain activity are still unclear. We propose a systematic review that aims to describe the effects of taVNS on EEG measures and identify taVNS parameters that can potentially lead to consistent EEG-mediated biomarkers for this therapy. A systematic literature review was carried out following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) and the Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews. Clinical trials examining EEG parameters were considered, including absolute and relative power, coherence, degree of symmetry, evoked potentials, and peak frequency of α 8 bands. According to our review, 18 studies (from 122 articles) were included. Our findings show a general trend towards increased EEG power spectrum activity in lower frequencies, and changes on early components of the ERP related to inhibitory tasks. This review suggests that quantitative electroencephalography can be used to assess the effects of taVNS on brain activity, however more studies are needed to systematically establish the specific effects and metrics that would reflect the non-invasive stimulation through the auricular branch of the vagus nerve.

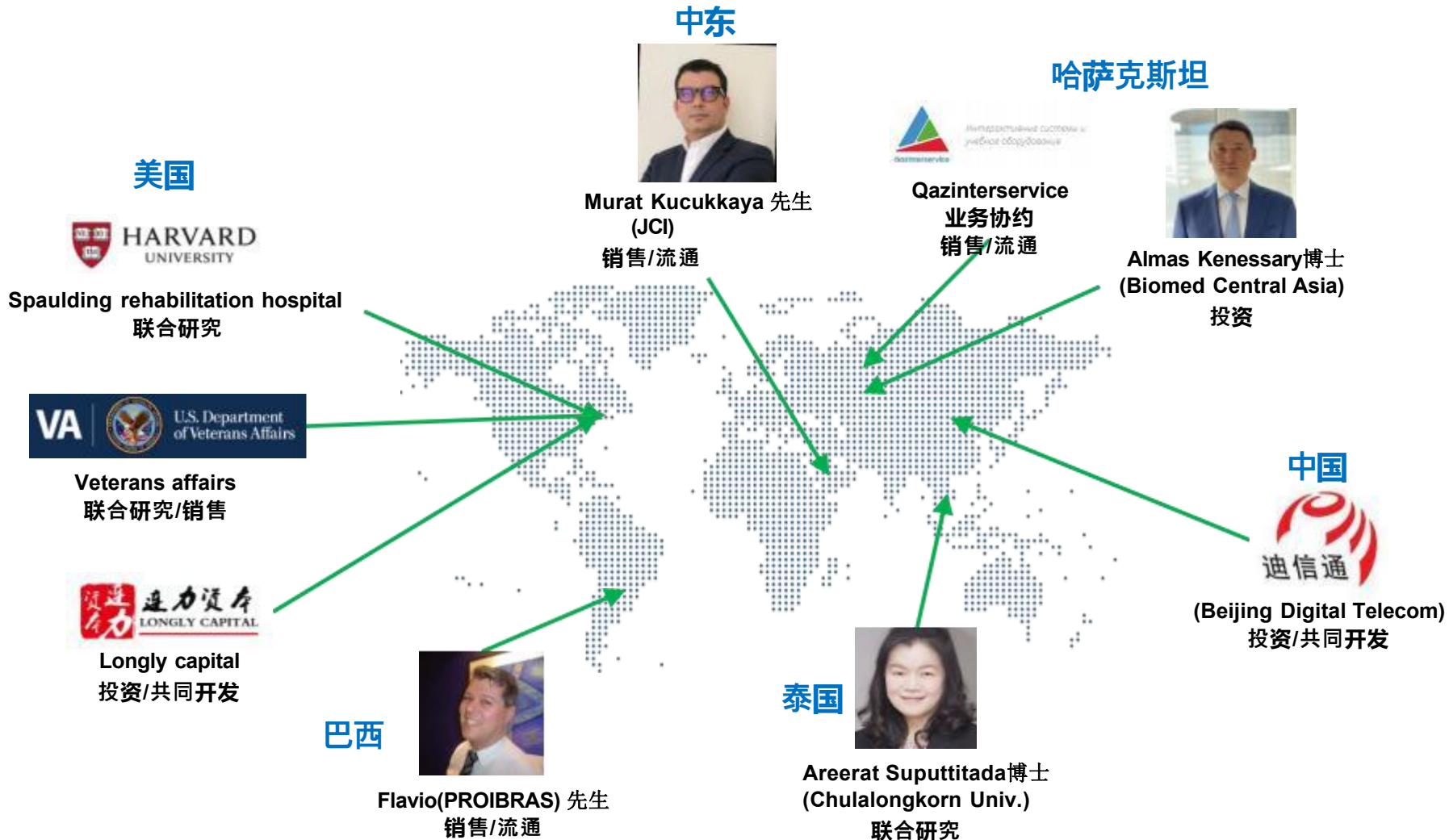
Keywords transcutaneous vagus nerve stimulation; taVNS; brain signals; EEG

1. Introduction

Due to its long path extending from its origin from the brainstem through the face and thorax down to the abdomen, the vagus nerve is also described as the “wandering nerve” [1]. The vagus nerve plays a widespread role maintaining autonomic tone among brain structures and peripheral organs. Traditionally, vagus nerve stimulation techniques have been developed to treat epilepsy and were first approved by the FDA in 1997 as an implantable treatment device [2]. Implantable vagus nerve stimulation is FDA-approved for therapeutic use in drug-resistant epilepsy and depression, and recent studies have shown promising results in treating various disorders such as cluster headache, heart failure, Alzheimer's disease, anxiety disorder, obesity, sepsis, lung injury, rheumatoid arthritis, and diabetes [3,4]. However, this classical approach requires an invasive surgical

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Global business



neurive

support for new life