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Neurosurgical Options for Disability

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Disability is of various types but some like cerebral palsy, autism, spinal cord injury and neurogenic bladder are due to involvement of the brain and spinal cord. There is now good rehabilitative treatment for these conditions but most patients do not benefit much from these conservative managements. Nowadays there are very specific neurosurgery technique for some of these conditions which help patients to have a much better quality of life.

For cerebral palsy and spinal cord injury the surgery done is intrathecal baclofen pump insertion. The pump delivers baclofen into the cerebrospinal fluid continuously so that both spasticity as well as dystonia can be controlled and patient can be made to mobilise and do other activities.

For autism the surgery offered is deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery. Here areas of the brain are stimulated for good results. For autism either the amygdala or the nucleus accumbens is preferred.

For neurogenic bladder the surgical option is sacral nerve stimulation. Sacral nerves control the bowel and bladder function. So by stimulating these we can give back the function.

All these procedures are internationally approved including FDA and CGHS in India. A trial procedure is always done before the surgery to confirm effectiveness. This way unwanted surgery are prevented.