

# SURGICAL OVERVIEW: MEDTRONIC DBS FOR EPILEPSY

## ANTERIOR NUCLEUS OF THE THALAMUS (ANT)

**Important: This presentation is for training purposes only. This material is not to be reproduced, disassembled, or distributed from its original and approved format.**

# MEDTRONIC DBS FOR EPILEPSY

## INDICATION STATEMENT

Bilateral stimulation of the anterior nucleus of the thalamus (ANT) using the Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy is indicated as an adjunctive therapy for reducing the frequency of seizures in individuals 18 years of age or older diagnosed with epilepsy characterized by partial-onset seizures, with or without secondary generalization, that are refractory to three or more antiepileptic medications.

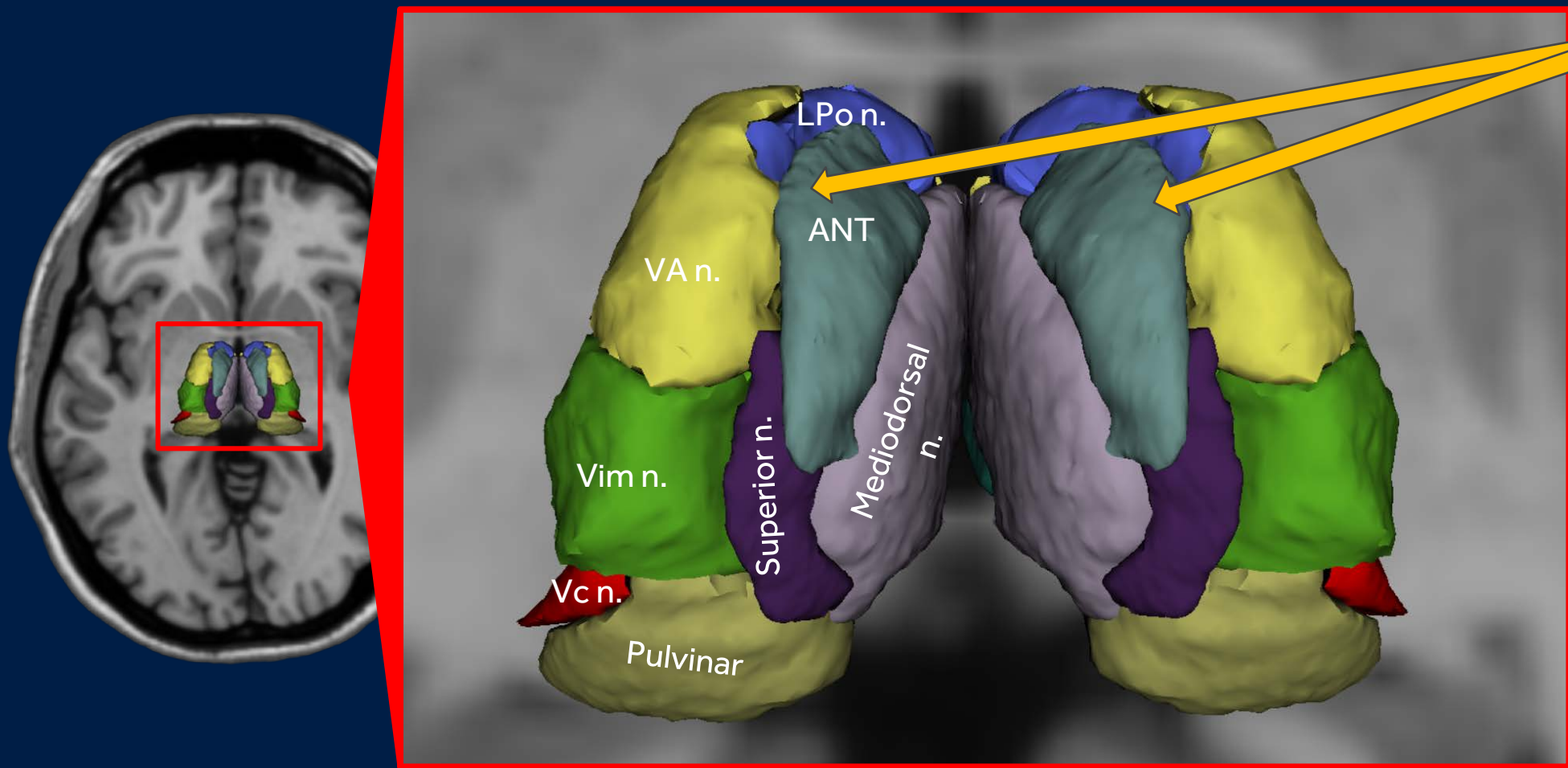
The Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy has demonstrated safety and effectiveness for patients who average six or more seizures per month over the three most recent months prior to implant of the DBS system (with no more than 30 days between seizures). The Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy has not been evaluated in patients with less frequent seizures.

# KEY SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANT DBS<sup>1</sup>

- Pre-operative MR imaging sequences
- Exclusively direct targeting
- Trajectory
- Cannula length
- Visualizing and avoiding venous structures
- Performed under general anesthesia
- MER (*value has not been demonstrated*)
- Intra-operative confirmation (*value has not been demonstrated*)

<sup>1</sup>Medtronic SANTE Study

# ANATOMICAL LOCATION (AXIAL VIEW) & OUTPUT FIBERS

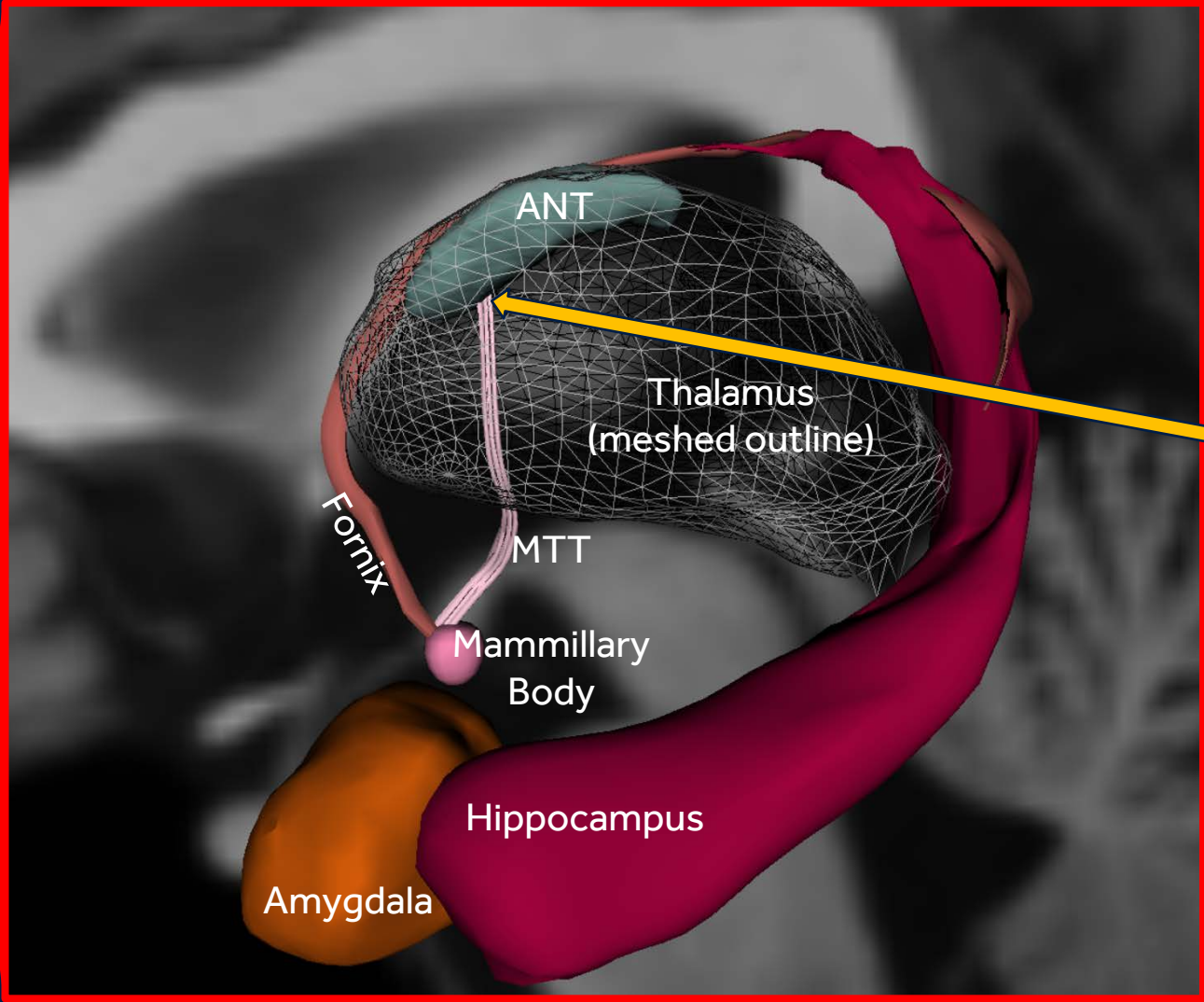
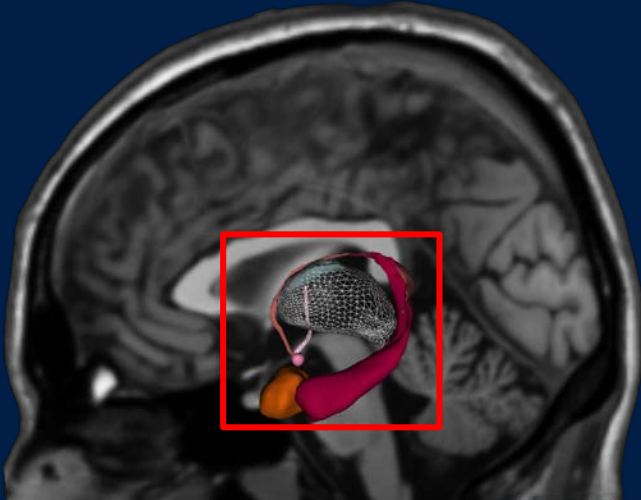


## ANT OUTPUT:

Anterior & lateral aspects via:

Anterior Thalamic Radiation  
to  
Anterior Limb of the Internal Capsule  
to  
cingulate gyrus

# ANATOMICAL LOCATION (SAGITTAL VIEW) & INPUT FIBERS



**ANT INPUT:**  
Ventral & anterior  
aspects via MTT  
(bidirectional tract)  
and fornix

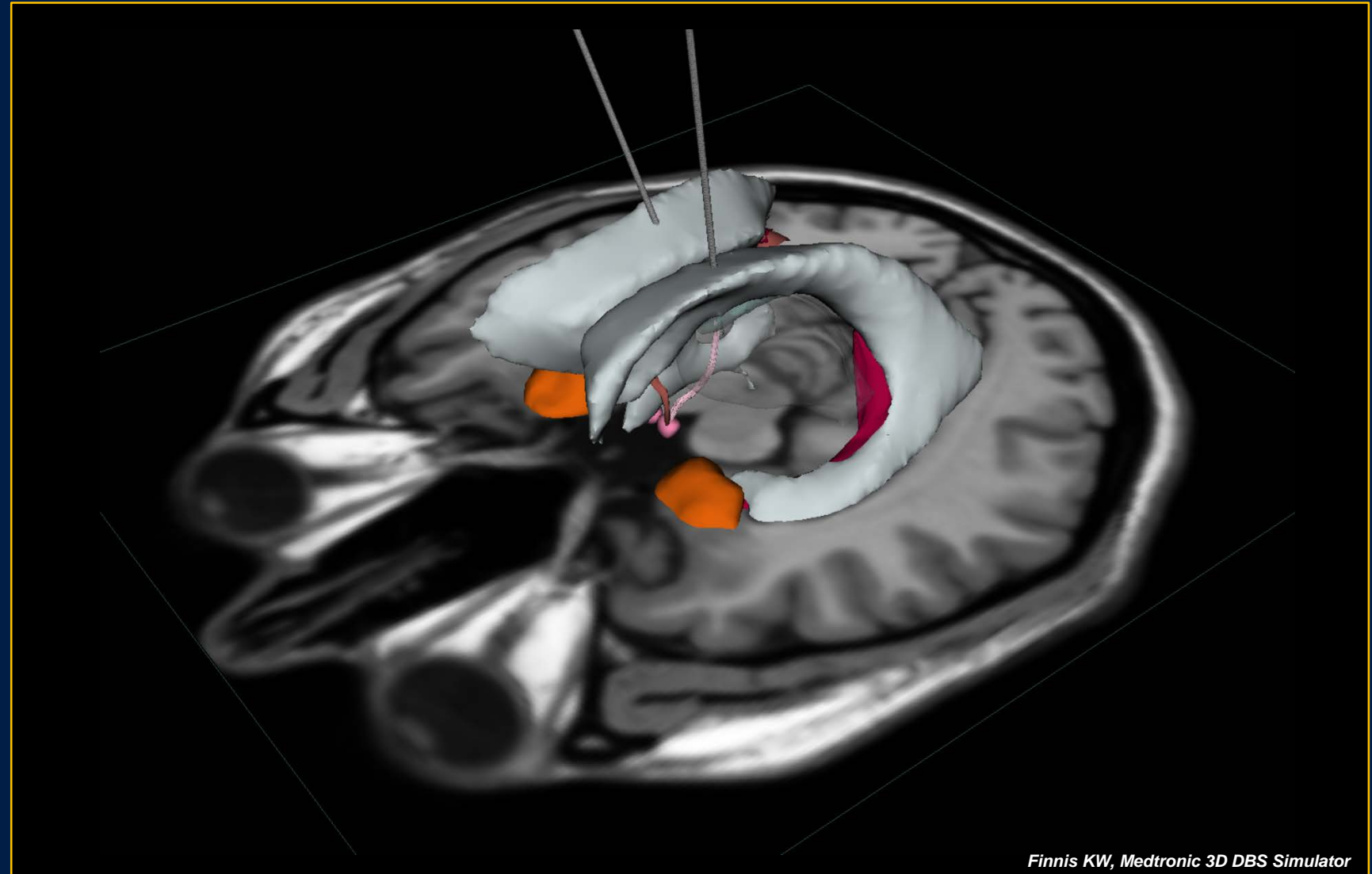
Finnis KW, Medtronic 3D DBS Simulator

# MEDTRONIC DBS LEAD PLACEMENT - 3389

## Surgical Target:

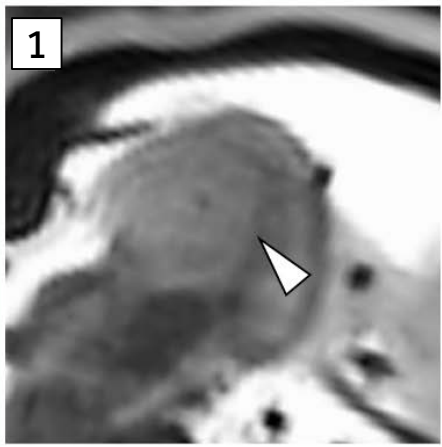
### Anteroventrolateral aspect of ANT

- Bilateral implants
- Transventricular trajectory
- Medtronic 3389 Lead
- Performed under GA
- ANT is subject to significant anatomical variation<sup>1</sup>
- ANT may undergo significant and asymmetric atrophy in patients with medically-refractory epilepsy<sup>2</sup>

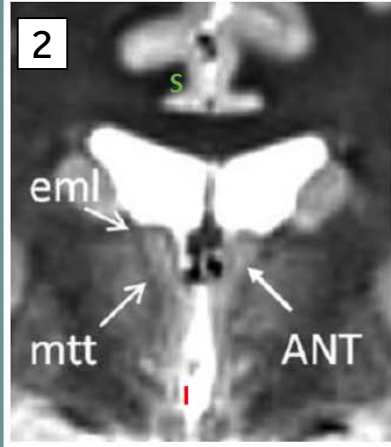


Finnis KW, Medtronic 3D DBS Simulator

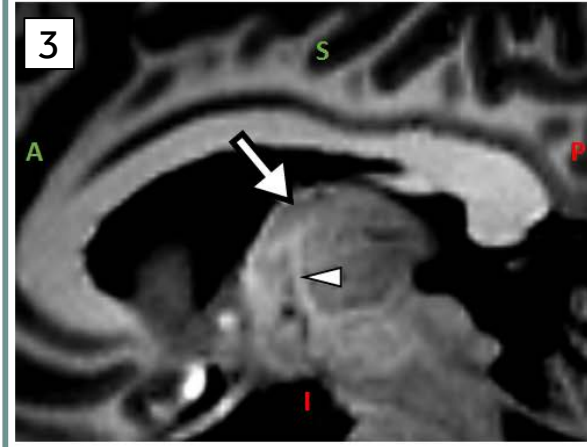
# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – PRE-OP IMAGING\*



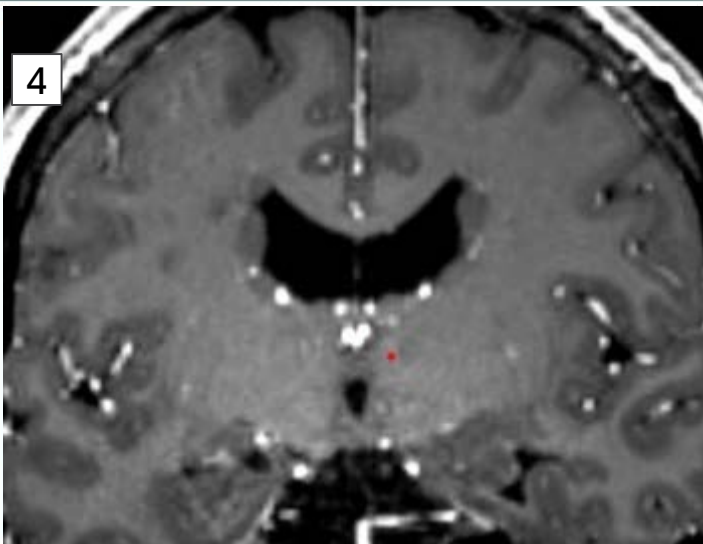
**Figure 1.1:** 3T STIR MRI. Sagittal view.  
Arrowhead marks the MTT



**Figure 1.2:** 1.5T STIR MRI. Coronal view



**Figure 1.3:** 3T MPRAGE MRI. Sagittal view.  
Arrow marks the ANT. Arrowhead marks the MTT



**Figure 1.4:** 3T T1-weighted MRI with contrast. Coronal view.  
Red targeting dot placed within MTT



**Figure 1.5:** 3T FGATIR MRI.  
Red targeting dot placed within MTT

Visualize 4 key anatomical structures:

- ANT
- Mammillothalamic tract (MTT)
- Internal/external medullary lamina of thalamus (IML/EML)
- Surrounding veins

<sup>1</sup>Lehtimäki et al, *Brain Stim.* 2016;9:268-275

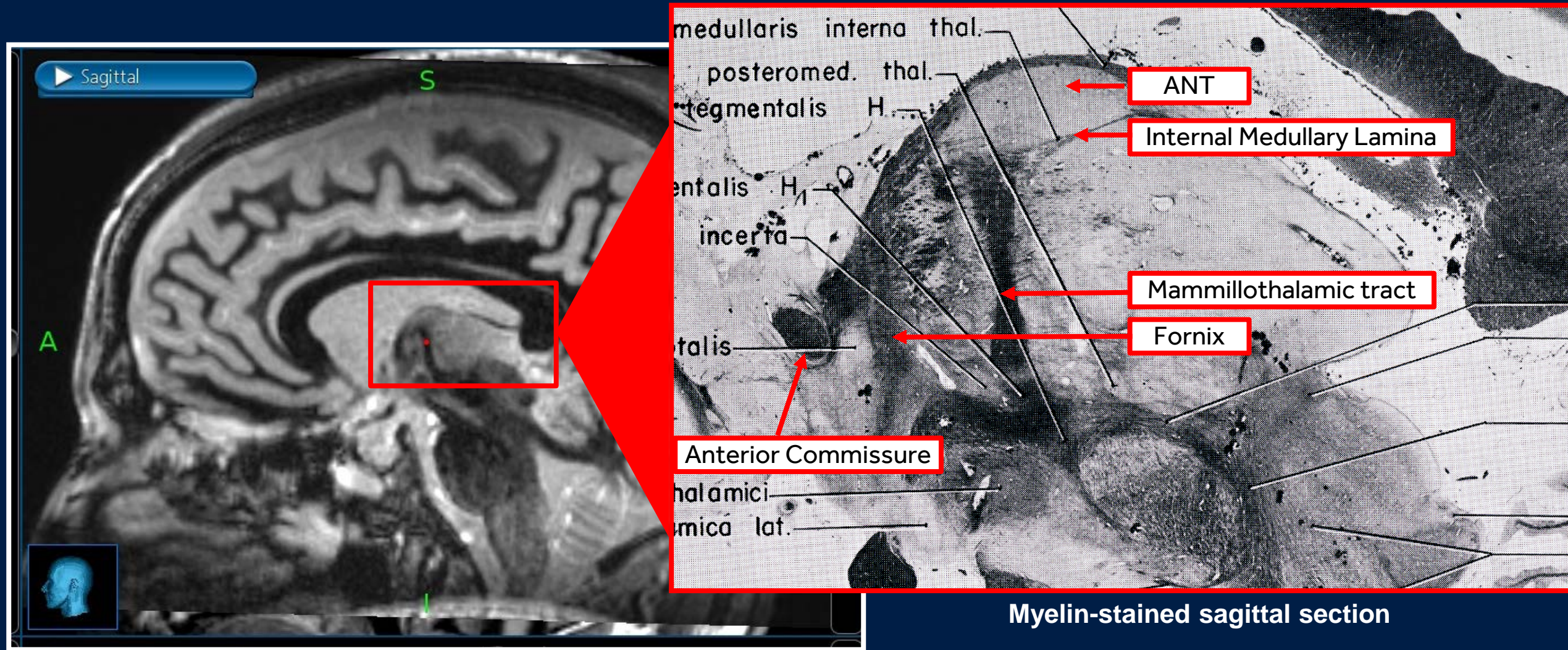
<sup>2</sup>Jiltsova et al, *Neuromodulation.* 2016;19(8):812-817

<sup>3</sup>Buentjen et al, *Stereotact Funct Neurosurg.* 2014;92:25-30

<sup>4,5</sup> Medtronic

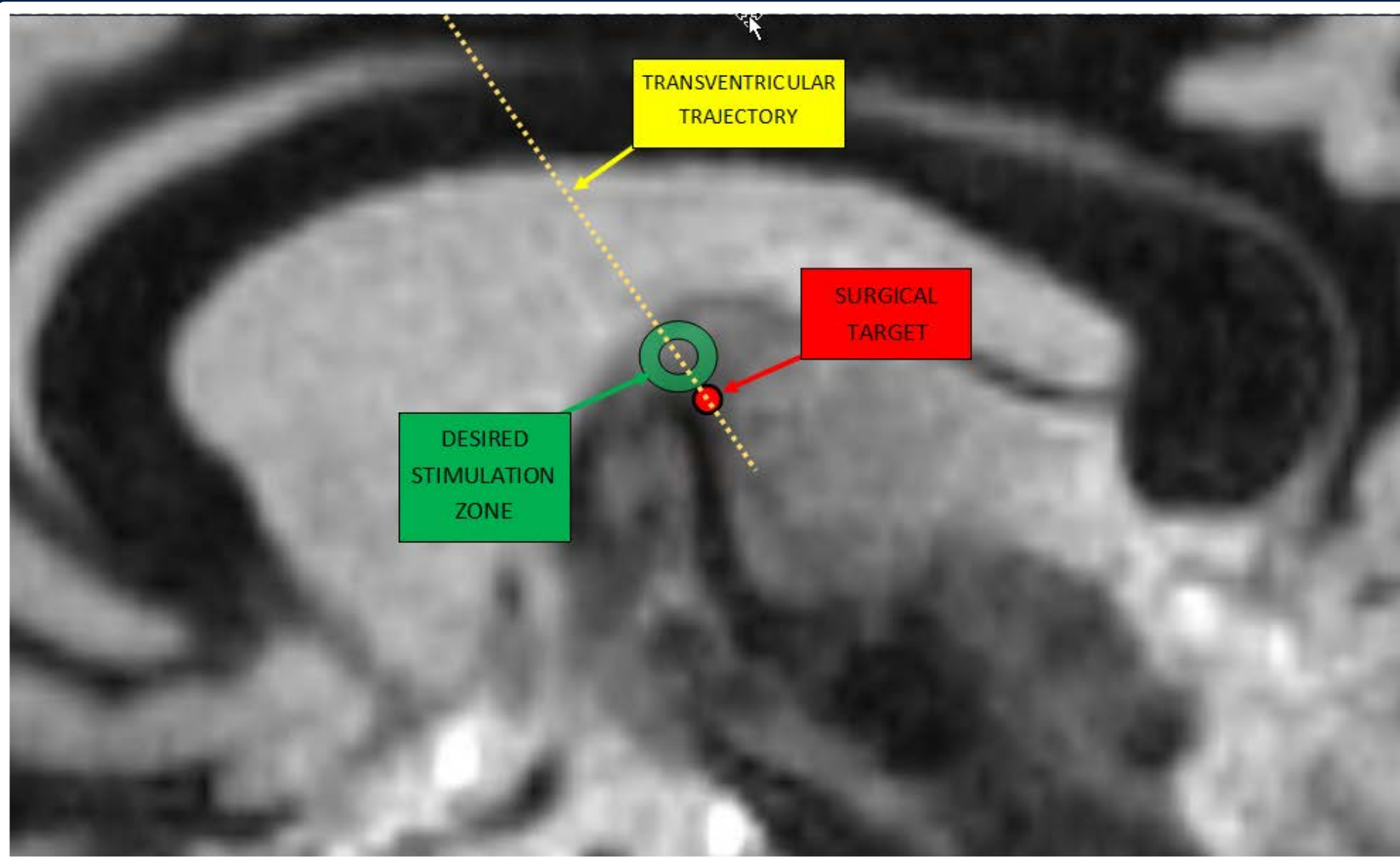
\* See [Guidelines for Medtronic deep brain stimulation systems](#) for more information

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – PRE-OP IMAGING





# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – DIRECT TARGETING VS ACPC



Broad range of ACPC coordinates<sup>1</sup>

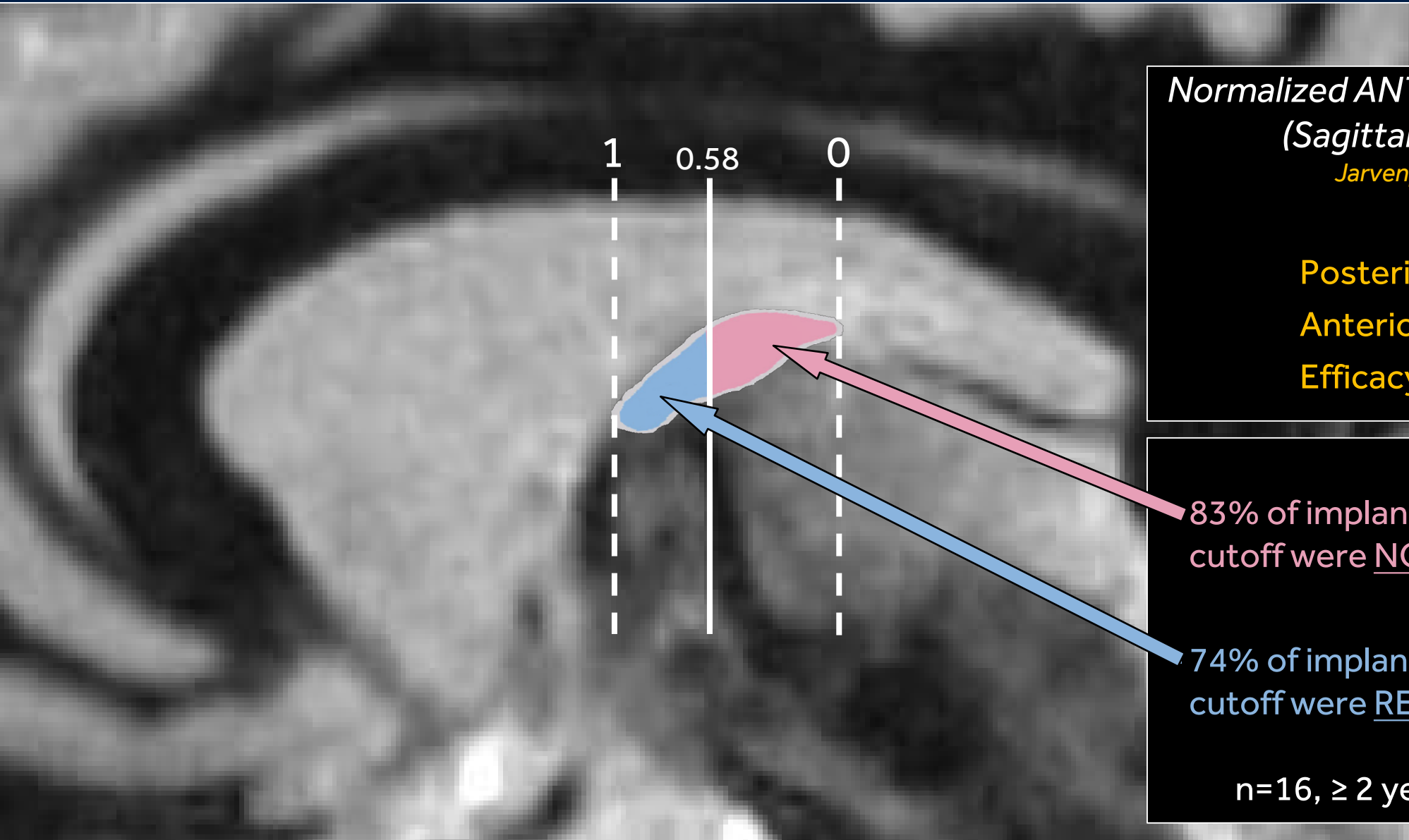
X = 5-6 mm lateral

Y = 0-2 mm anterior

Z = 10-12 mm superior

<sup>1</sup>Medtronic SANTE Study

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – DIRECT TARGETING



Normalized ANT Coordinate System  
(Sagittal Orientation):

*Jarvenpaa et al, 2018*

Posterior border = 0

Anterior border = 1

Efficacy cutoff = 0.58

83% of implants posterior to the cutoff were NONRESPONDERS

74% of implants anterior to the cutoff were RESPONDERS

n=16, ≥ 2 years of follow-up

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – TRAJECTORY

Based on 73 implants<sup>1</sup>:

90% of transventricular trajectories had at least ONE contact in ANT

VS

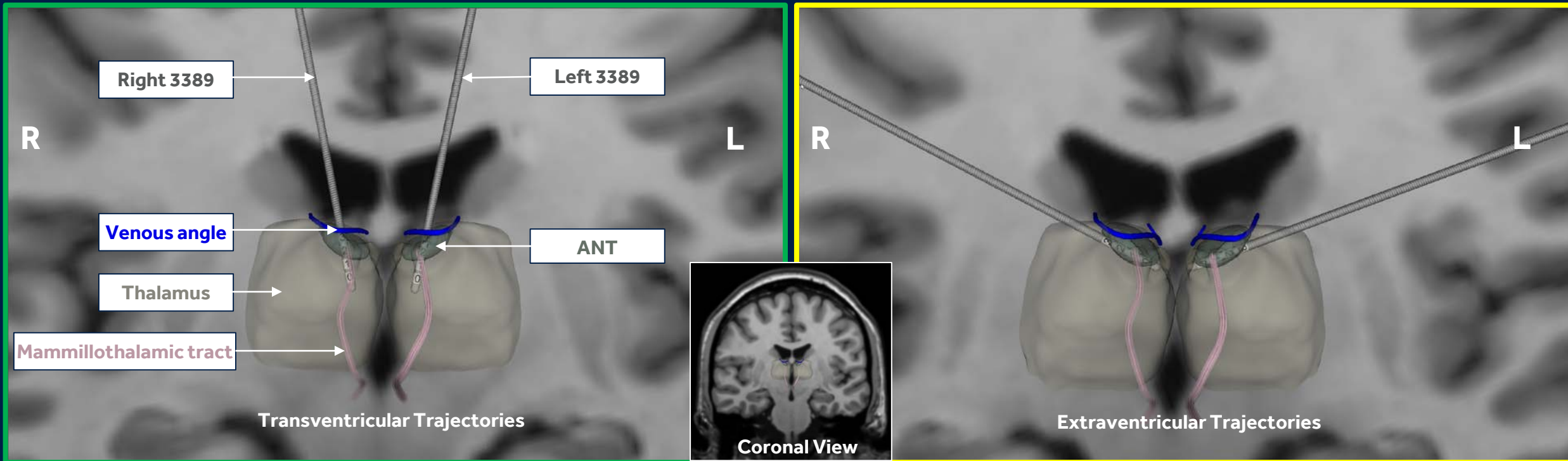
71% of extraventricular trajectories had at least ONE contact in ANT

The success rate for placing at least 1 contact in ANT bilaterally:

84% Transventricular

VS

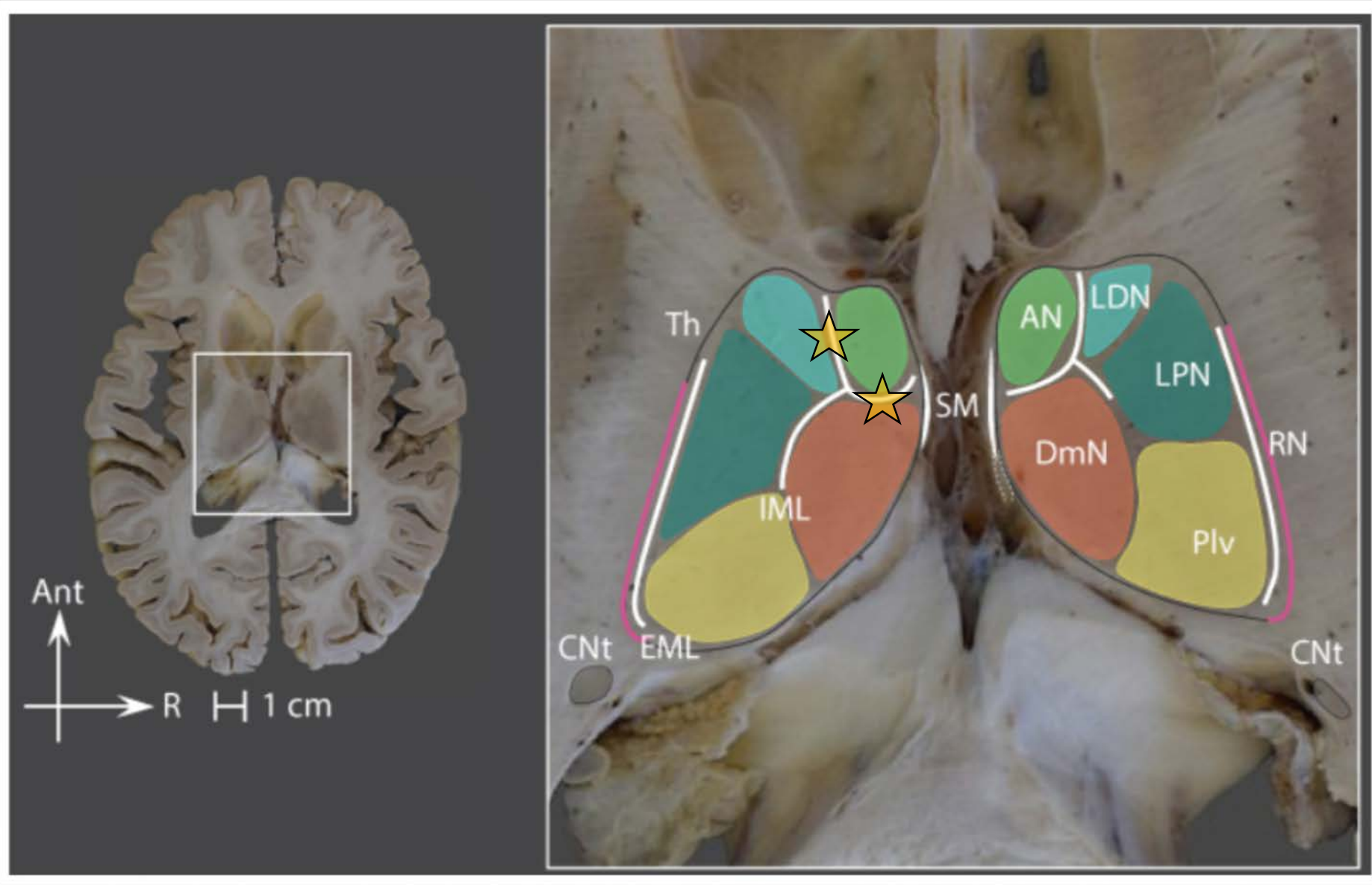
58% Extraventricular



<sup>1</sup>Lehtimaki K et al, Neurosurgery 2018, Mar 15

Finnis KW, Medtronic 3D DBS Simulator

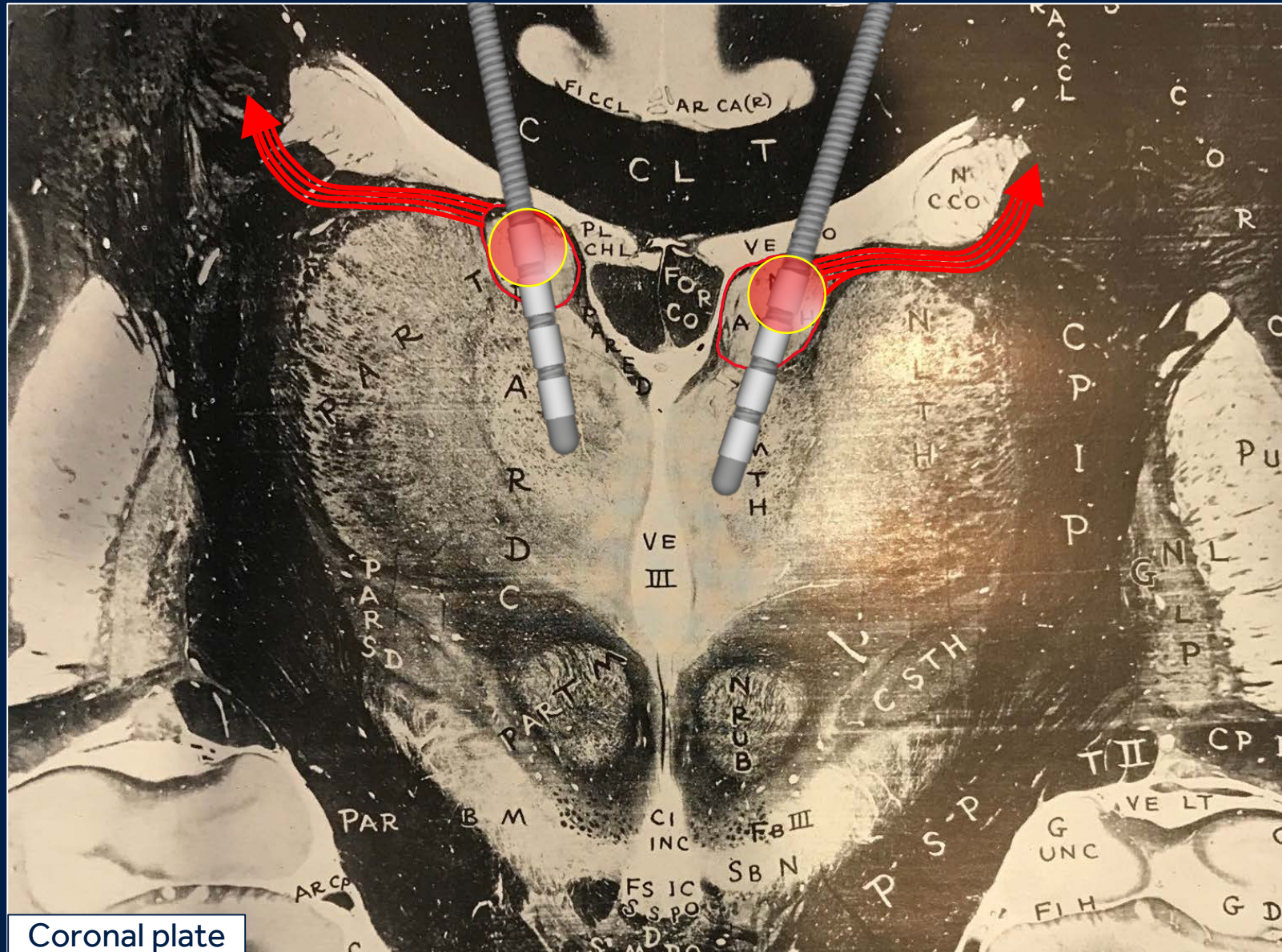
# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – WHITE MATTER LAMINA



The ANT is enveloped by the **internal medullary lamina** (white matter), a high impedance structure that may influence current flow.

- AN: *Anterior nucleus*
- LDN: *Lateral dorsal nucleus*
- LPN: *Lateral posterior nucleus*
- DmN: *Dorsomedian nucleus*
- Plv: *Pulvinar*
- RN: *Reticular nucleus*
- CNT: *Caudate nucleus (tail)*
- EML: *External medullary lamina*
- IML: *Internal medullary lamina*
- SM: *Stria medularis*
- Th: *Thalamus*

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – ANT EFFERENT PATHWAY

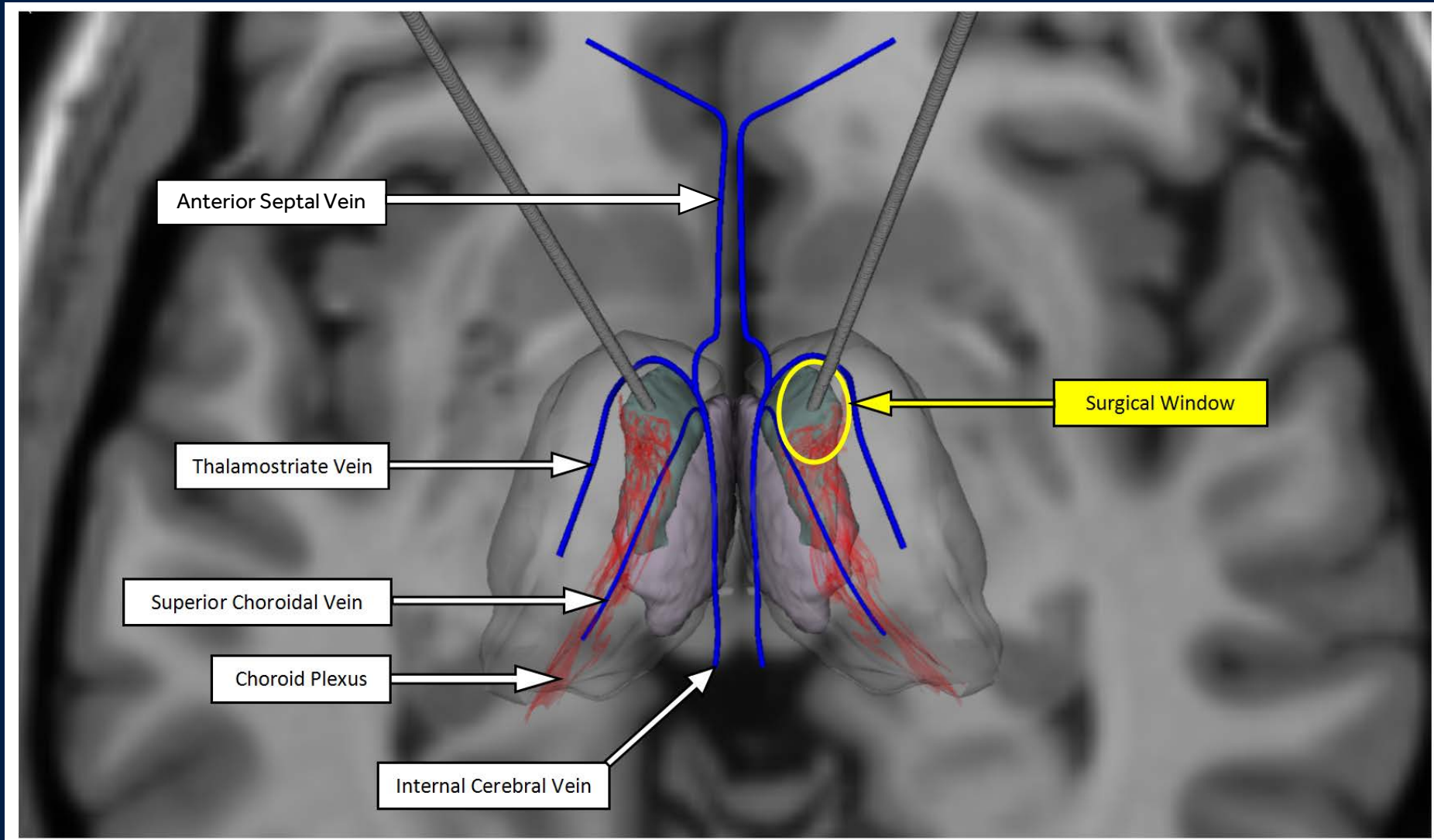


Coronal plate

Outflow pathway from ANT exits on lateral border via the anterior thalamic radiation.

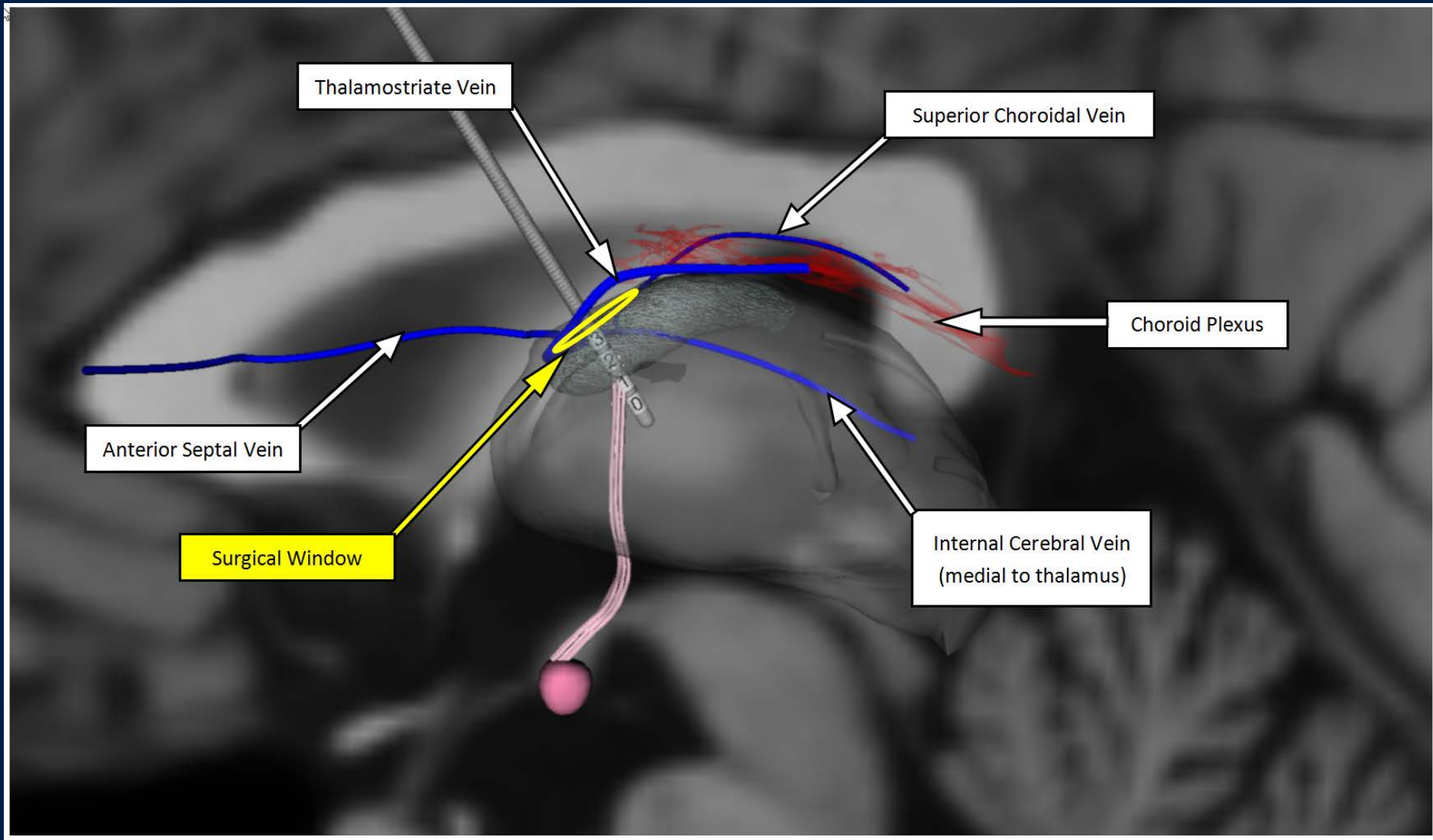
A Medtronic lead biased slightly laterally within ANT may have greater potential for influencing these axons.

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – VASCULATURE



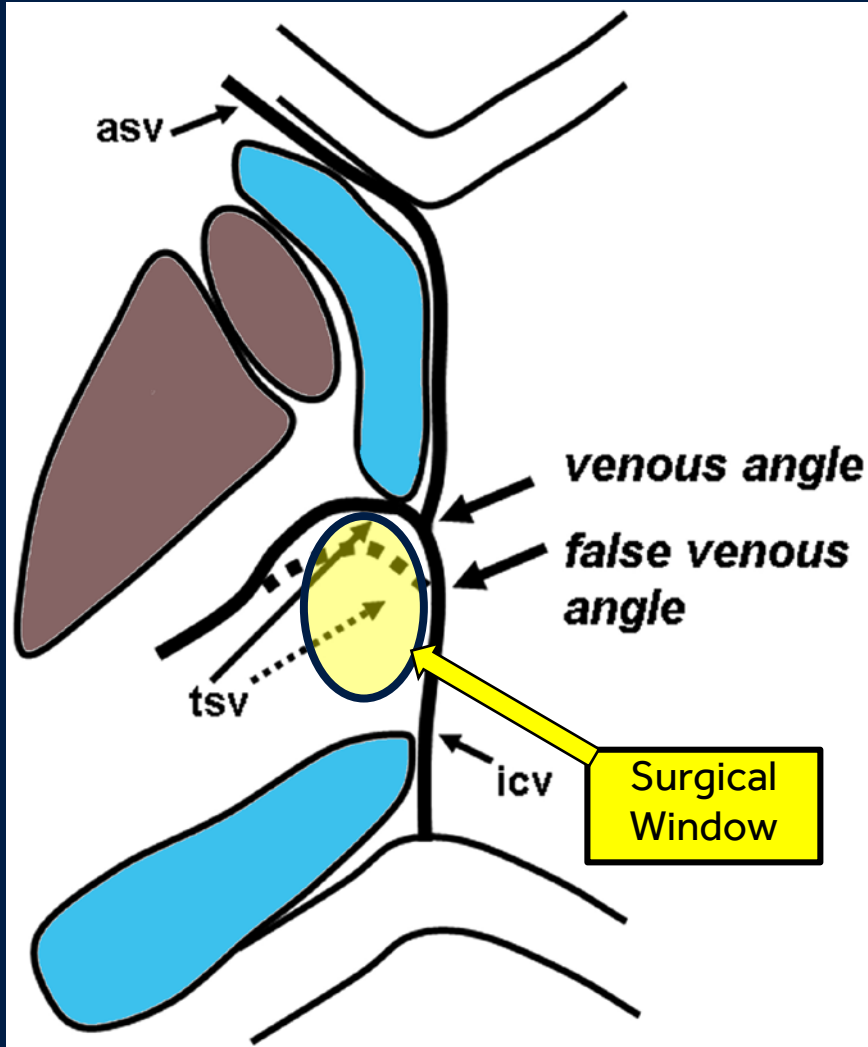
**Axial View (superior aspect)**

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – VASCULATURE

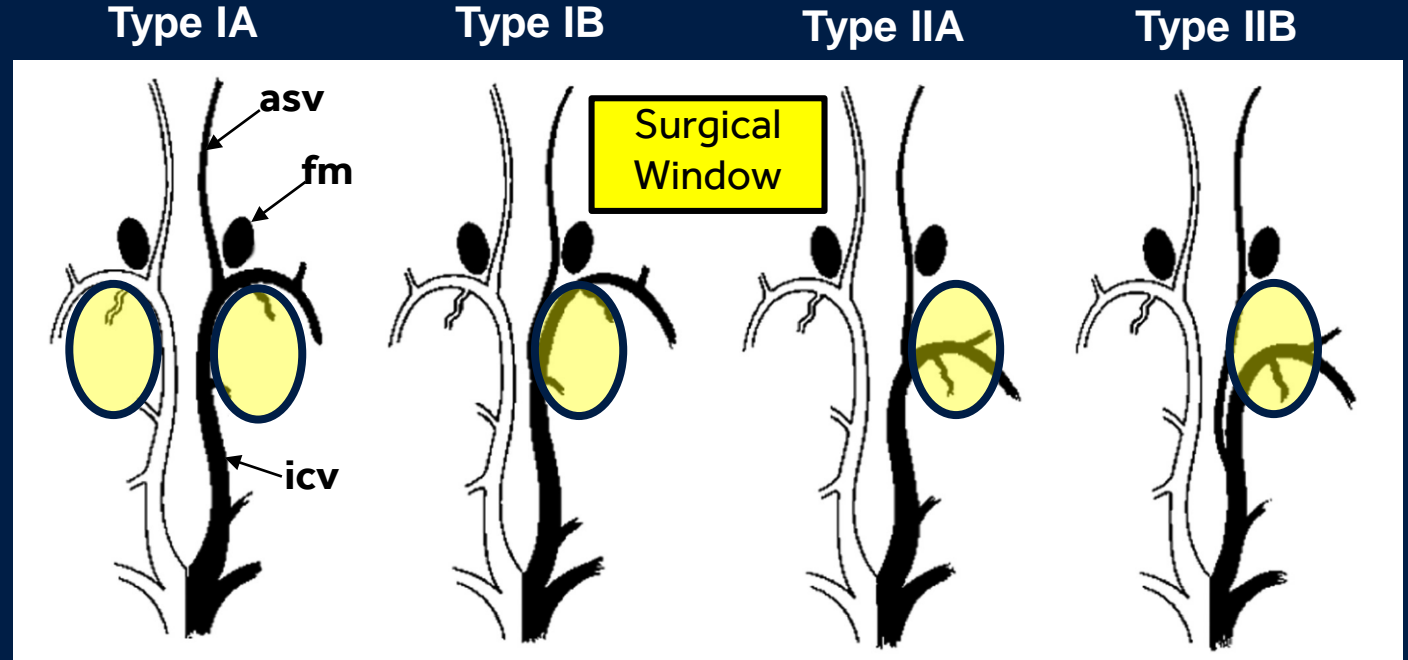


**Sagittal View (lateral aspect)**

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – VENOUS VARIABILITY



asv: Anterior septal vein  
 tsv: Thalamostriate vein  
 icv: Internal cerebral vein



Variations in venous angle & asv-icv junction relative to the Foramen of Monro (fm)

Left Hemisphere: Typical venous anatomy (white)  
 Right Hemisphere: Variations (black)



# REPRESENTATIVE SURGICAL PLAN

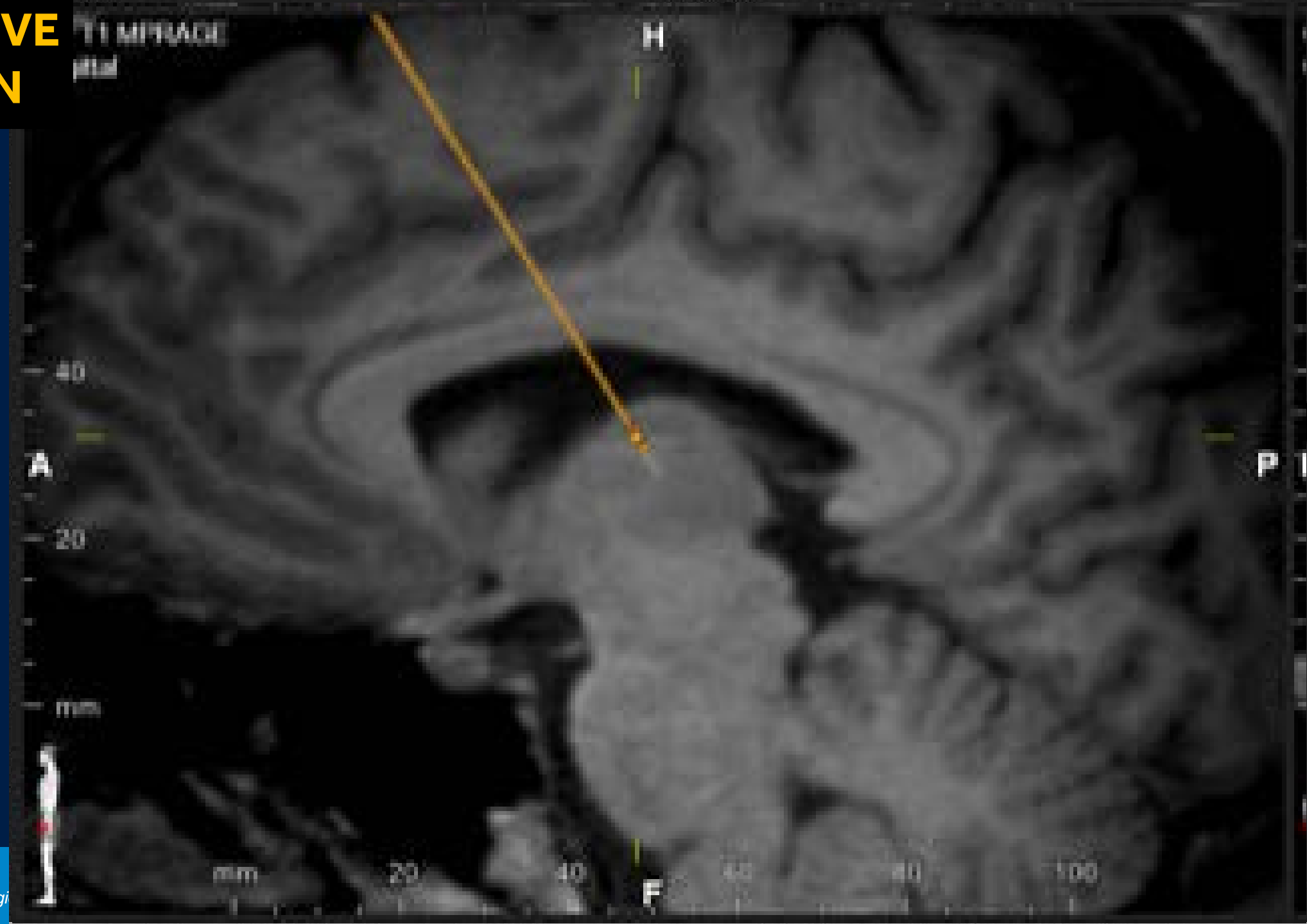
Planes  
centered at  
contact 2

LH

3389

MPRAGE  
image

Image Courtesy of  
Dr. A Bari, UCLA



# REPRESENTATIVE SURGICAL PLAN

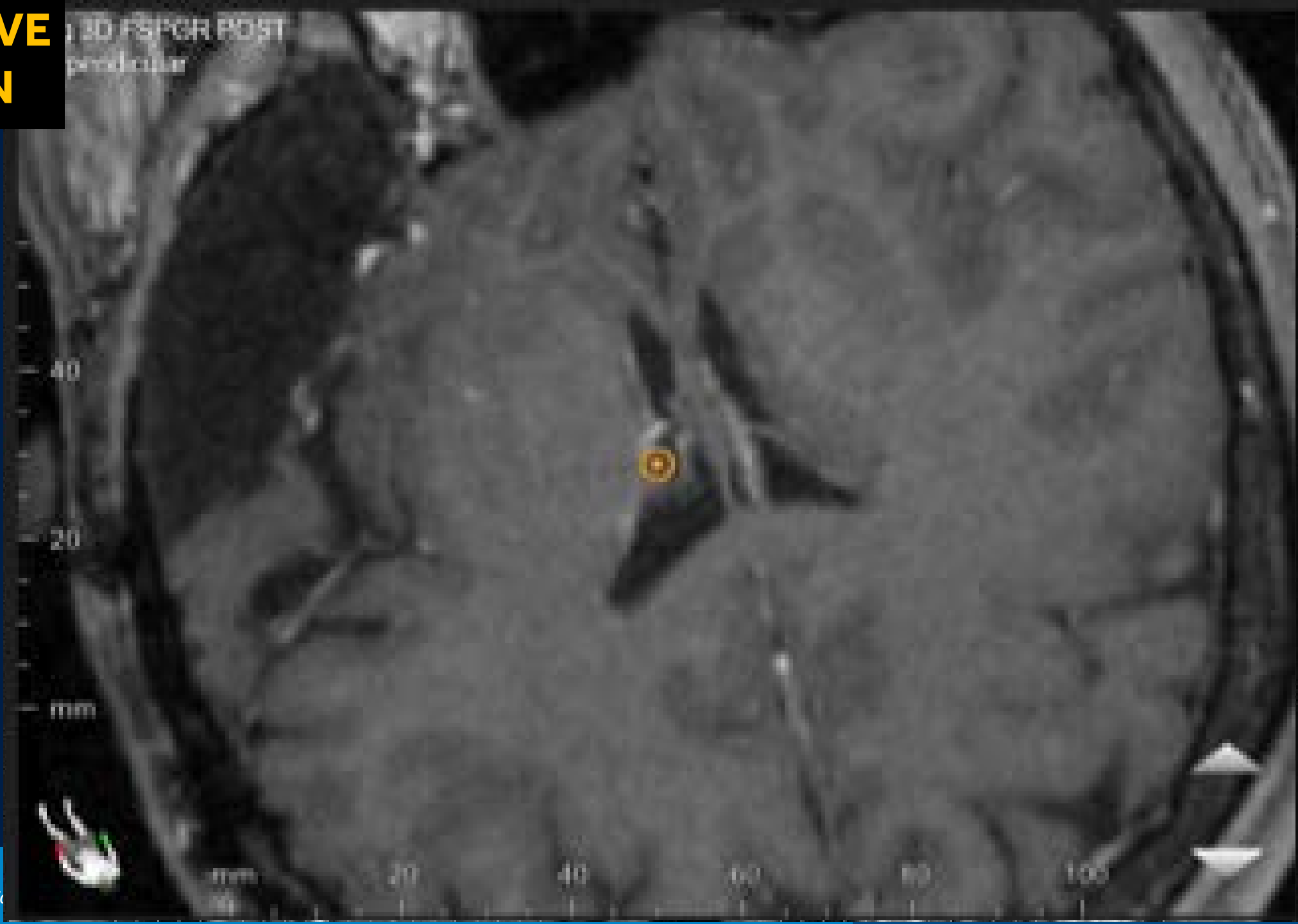
Planes  
centered at  
contact 3

LH

3389

T1 w/c  
image

Image Courtesy of  
Dr. A Bari, UCLA



# REPRESENTATIVE SURGICAL PLAN

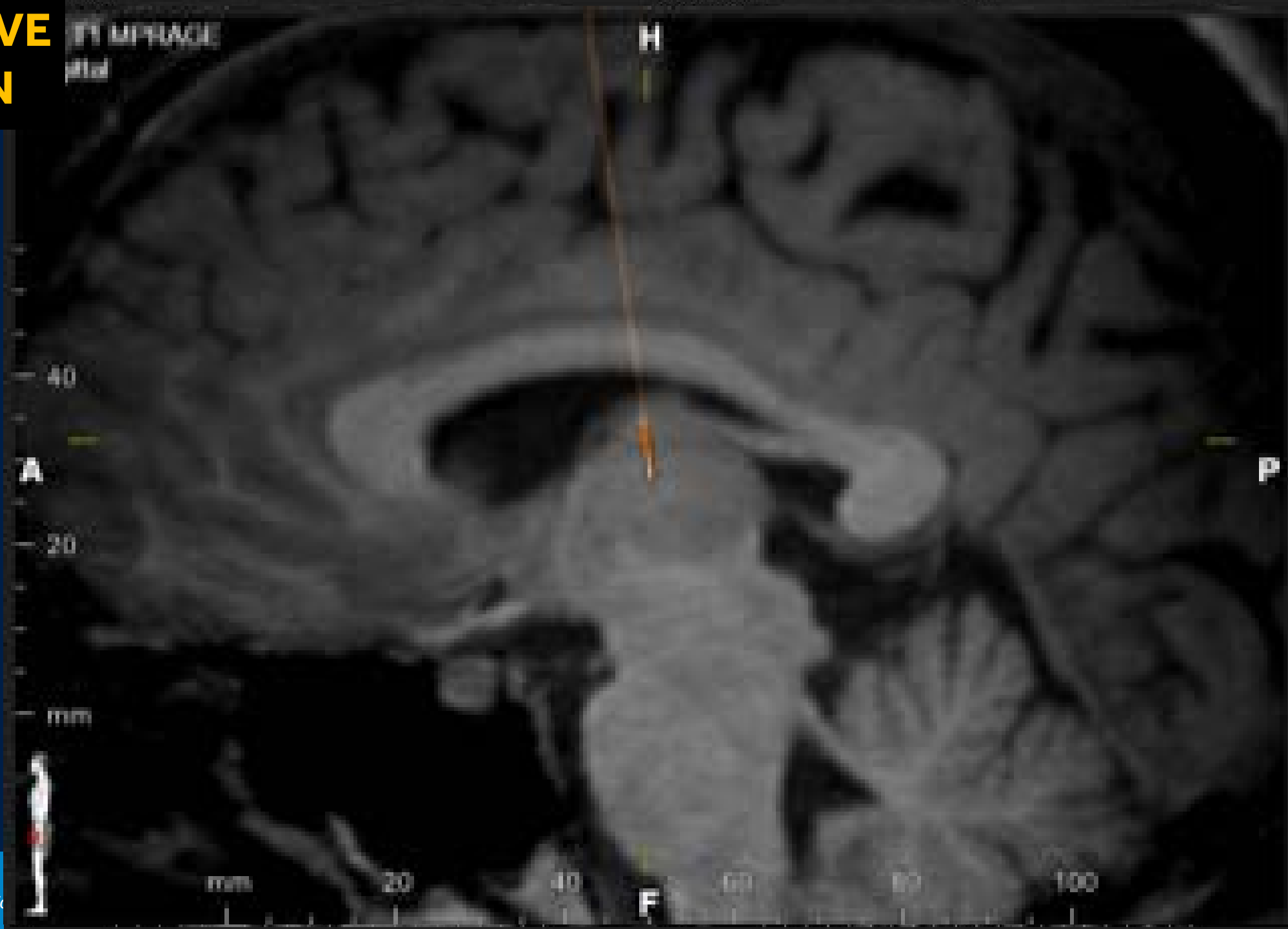
Planes  
centered at  
contact 2

RH

3389

MPRAGE

Image Courtesy of  
Dr. A Bari, UCLA



# REPRESENTATIVE SURGICAL PLAN

Planes  
centered at  
contact 3

RH

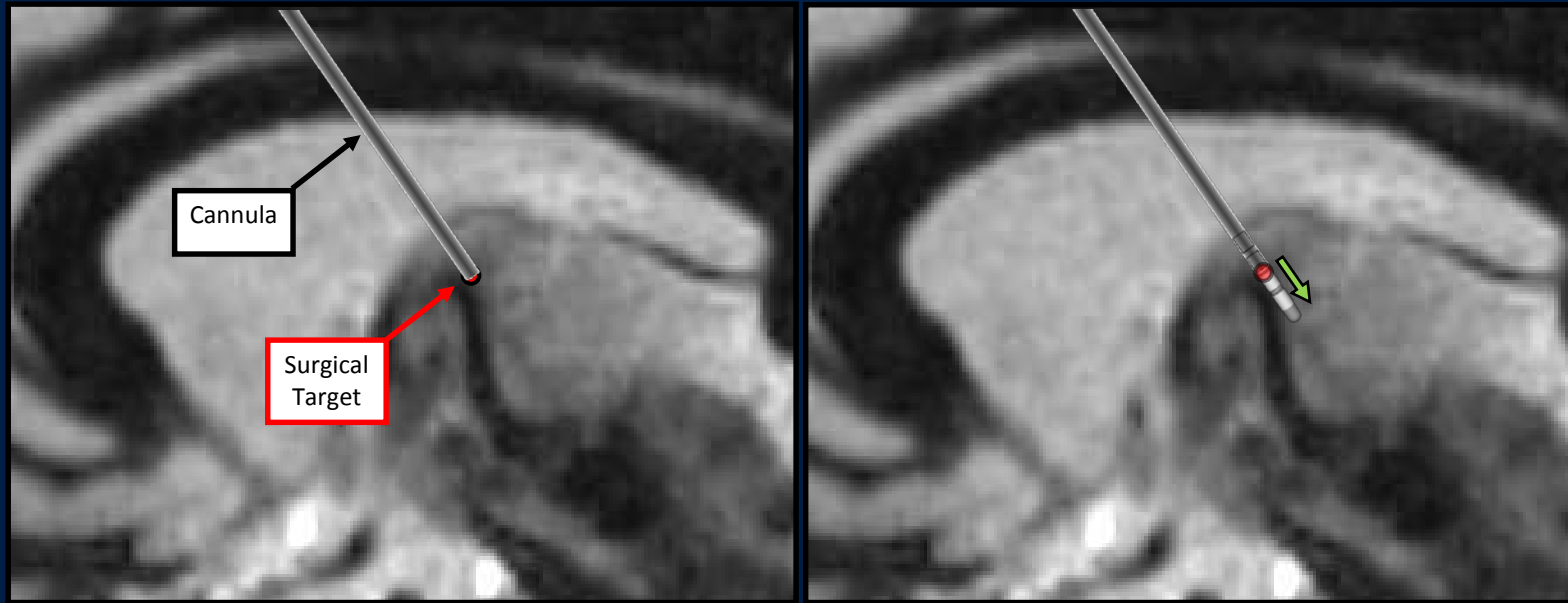
3389

T1 w/c

Image Courtesy of  
Dr. A Bari, UCLA

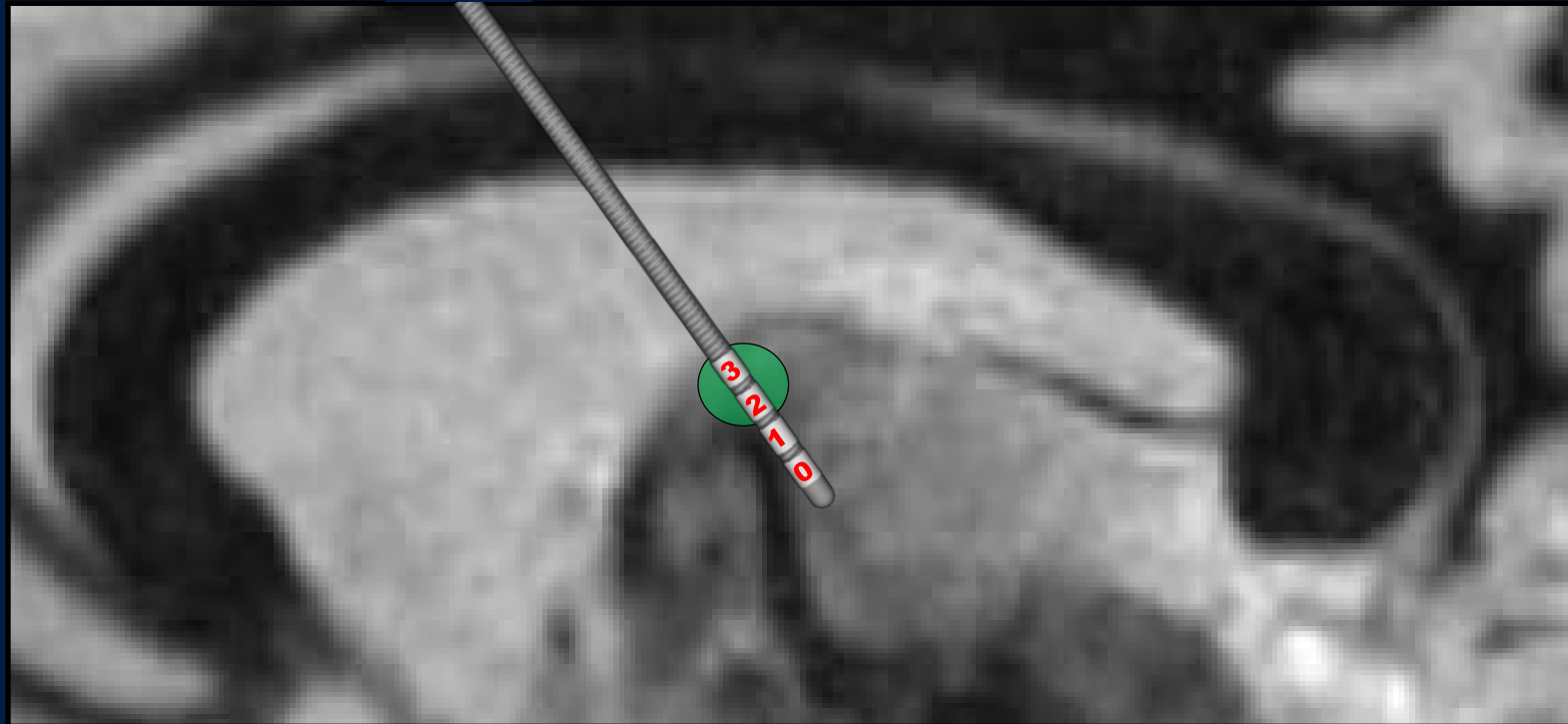


# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS: TO-TARGET CANNULA



- A cannula that extends to target (or one positioned to just penetrate the ANT) may help reduce deflection of lead into third ventricle
- Some adjustment of the lead position along the trajectory will be necessary to accommodate anatomical variability and to ensure the chosen contacts are within the ANT and not within the ventricle
- The use of intra-operative volumetric imaging, such as the Medtronic O-Arm™ O2 Imaging System or intraoperative CT, is highly recommended to ensure appropriate lead placement.

# SURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – CONTACT PLACEMENT



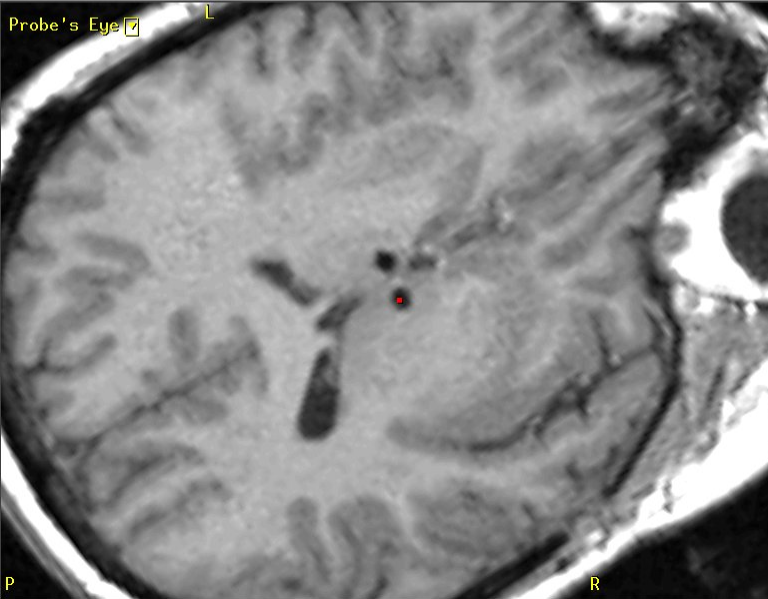
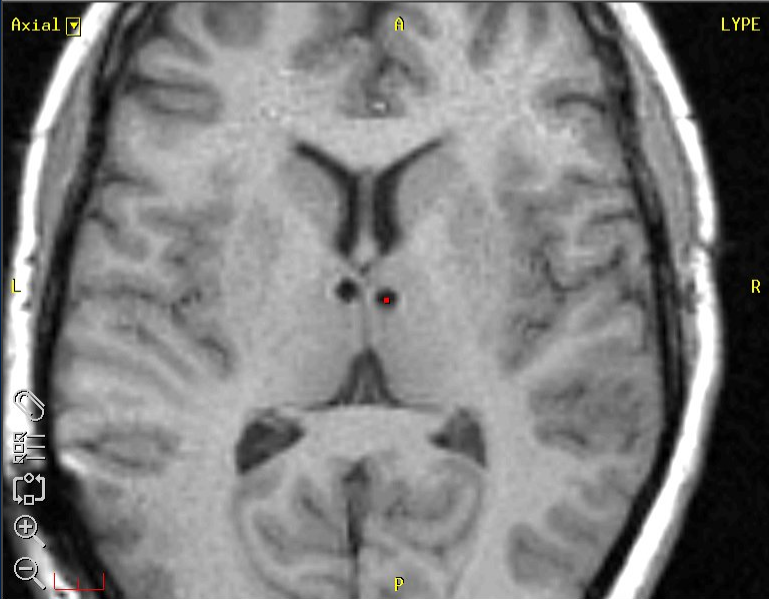
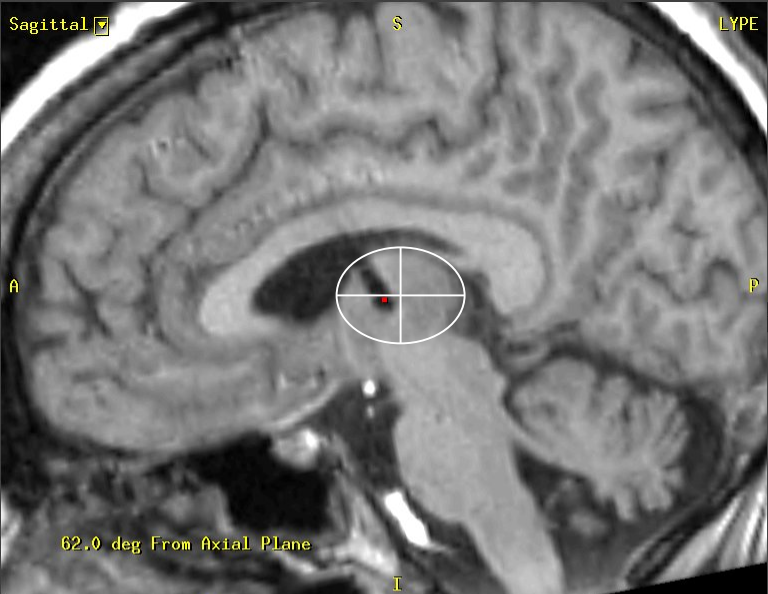
- Contacts 2 & 3 are placed within the ANT to overlap the desired area for DBS stimulation (green)
- Contact 3 is completely within the ANT and does not extend into the ventricle
- Contacts 0 & 1 in this example would likely not be used for stimulation.

# LEAD PLACEMENT EXAMPLES

## (POST-OP MRI\*, SANTE STUDY)

\* See [Guidelines for Medtronic deep brain stimulation systems](#) for more information

# GOOD PLACEMENT



Medtronic StealthStation®

Prep **Plan** Setup Nav End

Frame Detect  
 Reformat Exam  
 Planning  
 Identify landmarks on images

Mark the target and entry points. Place cursor and hold Shift key to adjust surgical plan. To adjust target, plan must be on the target plane.

Right Edit...

< 16.7 >

Set Entry Length 16.7 mm Set Target

0.0 mm past target  
0.0 mm off plan

New Plan to Offset

+/-x  +/-y  Store

Target Selection

Sample

AC-PC Coordinate

Lat =  =  x

A-P =  =  x

Vert =  =  x

Back Next



# SLIGHT POSTERIOR

The interface displays four MRI views of a brain scan:

- Coronal:** Shows a coronal view with a red target point. Text: "14.9 deg From Mid Sagittal Plane".
- Sagittal:** Shows a sagittal view with a white circle and crosshair around the target. Text: "46.9 deg From Axial Plane".
- Axial:** Shows an axial view with a red target point.
- Probe's Eye:** Shows a perspective view of the target point.

The control panel on the right includes the following elements:

- Buttons: Prep, **Plan**, Setup, Nav, End.
- Radio buttons: Frame Detect, Reformat Exam, **Planning**, Identify landmarks on images.
- Instructional text: "Mark the target and entry points. Place cursor and hold Shift key to adjust surgical plan. To adjust target plan, plan must be on the target plane."
- Buttons: Left, Edit...
- Slider: 18.0
- Buttons: Set Entry, Length 18.0 mm, Set Target.
- Status: 0.0 mm to target, 0.0 mm off plan.
- Section: New Plan to Offset.
- Buttons: +/-x, +/-y, Store.
- Section: Target Selection.
- Button: Sample.
- Section: AC-PC Coordinate.
- Coordinates:
  - Lat = [-4.67] = [-0.20] x [23.37]
  - A-P = [-3.32] = [-0.14] x [23.37]
  - Vert = [13.85] = [0.59] x [23.37]
- Buttons: Back, Next.
- Bottom navigation icons: Home, Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh.

# POSTERIOR

The interface displays four MRI views of a brain scan:

- Coronal:** Shows a coronal view with a red target point. Text: "16.8 deg From Mid Sagittal Plane".
- Sagittal:** Shows a sagittal view with a white crosshair and red target point. Text: "49.9 deg From Axial Plane".
- Axial:** Shows an axial view with a red target point.
- Probe's Eye:** Shows a probe's eye view with a red target point.

The control panel on the right includes the following elements:

- StealthStation®** header.
- Navigation tabs: **Prep**, **Plan** (selected), **Setup**, **Nav**, **End**.
- Radio buttons for:  Frame Detect,  Reformat Exam,  **Planning**,  Identify landmarks on images.
- Instructional text: "Mark the target and entry points. Place cursor and hold Shift key to adjust surgical plan. To adjust target, plan must be on the target plane." with a question mark icon.
- Buttons: **Right**, **Edit...**, **Set Entry**, **Set Target**.
- Slider: Value **15.4**, **Length 15.4 mm**.
- Offsets: **0.0 mm past target**, **0.0 mm off plan**.
- Buttons: **+/-x**, **+/-y**, **Store**.
- Section: **Target Selection** with **Sample** button.
- Section: **AC-PC Coordinate** with input fields:
 

Lat =	3.55	=	0.15	x	23.74
A-P =	-4.09	=	-0.17	x	23.74
Vert =	10.45	=	0.44	x	23.74
- Buttons: **Back**, **Next**.
- Bottom navigation icons: Home, Back, Forward, Refresh, Exit.

# MEDIAL

The interface displays four MRI views of a brain scan, each with a red dot indicating a target point. The top-left view is Coronal, showing a 22.3 deg angle from the Mid Sagittal Plane. The top-right view is Sagittal, showing a 70.9 deg angle from the Axial Plane. The bottom-left view is Axial. The bottom-right view is Probe's Eye. The control panel on the right includes a menu with 'Plan' selected, a 'Mark the target and entry points' instruction, a 'Set Entry' button with a length of 12.3 mm, and AC-PC coordinate values for Lat, A-P, and Vert.

**StealthStation®**

Prep **Plan** Setup Nav End

Frame Detect  
 Reformat Exam  
 Planning  
 Identify landmarks on images

Mark the target and entry points. Place cursor and hold Shift key to adjust surgical plan. To adjust target, plan must be on the target plane.

Left Edit...

12.3

Set Entry Length 12.3 mm Set Target

0.0 mm past target  
0.0 mm off plan

New Plan to Offset

+/-x +/-y Store

Target Selection

Sample

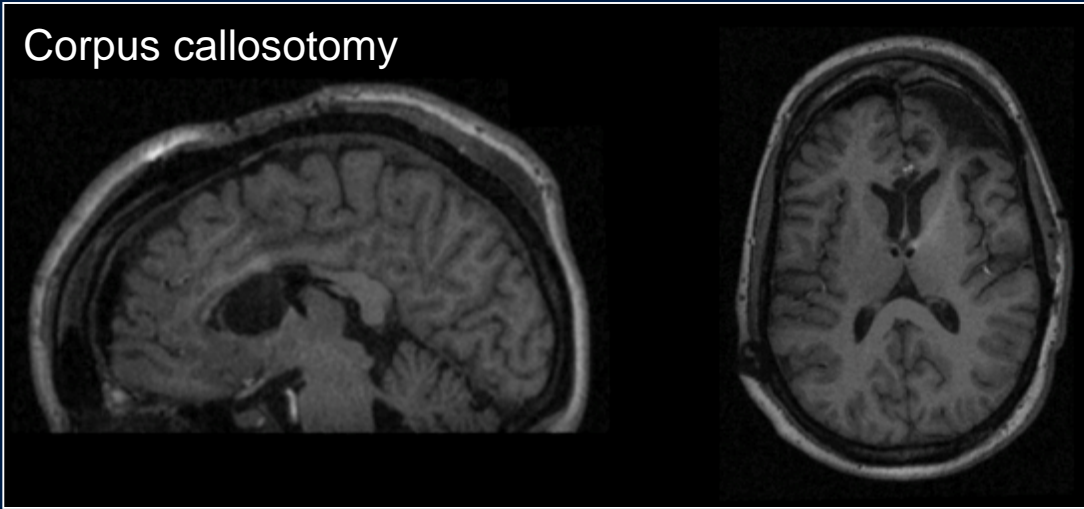
AC-PC Coordinate

Lat = -2.25 = -0.08 x 26.51  
A-P = -0.80 = -0.03 x 26.51  
Vert = 7.93 = 0.30 x 26.51

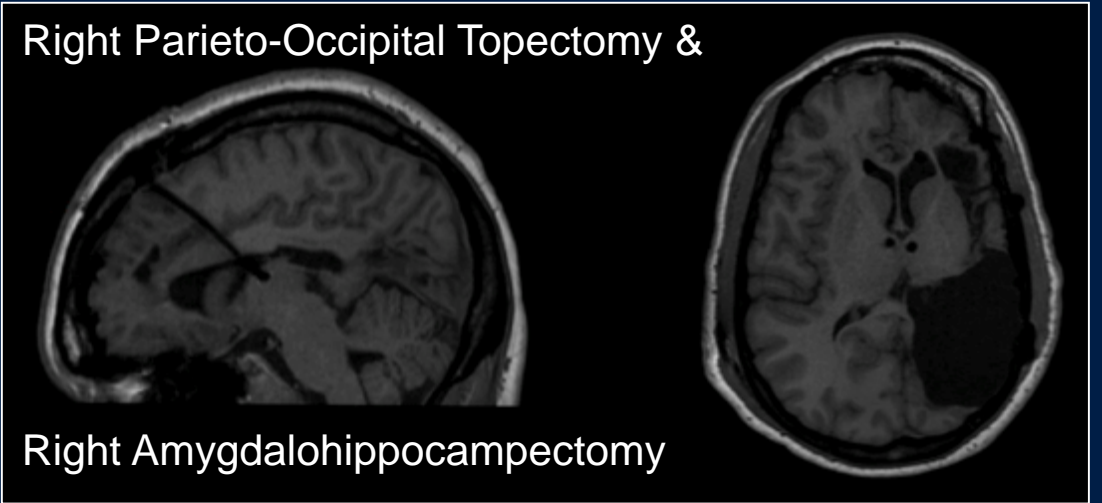
Back Next

# SUCCESSFUL LEAD IMPLANTATIONS WITH DISORDERED ANATOMY

Corpus callosotomy

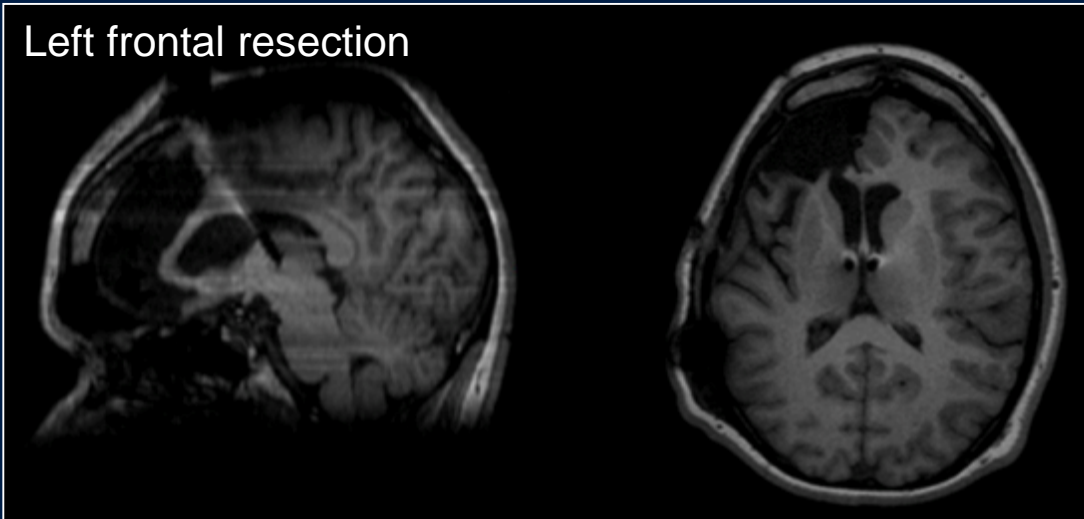


Right Parieto-Occipital Topectomy &

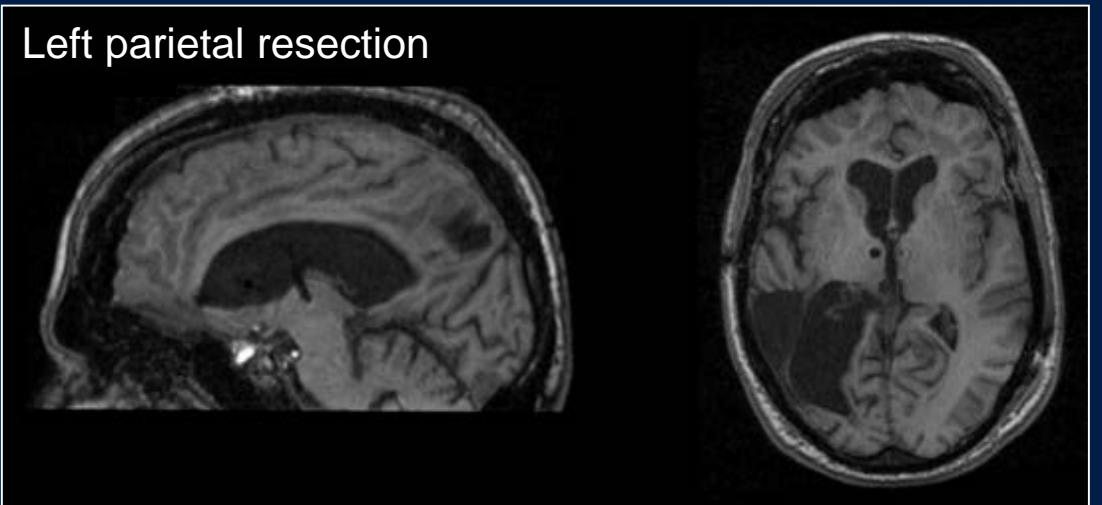


Right Amygdalohippocampectomy

Left frontal resection

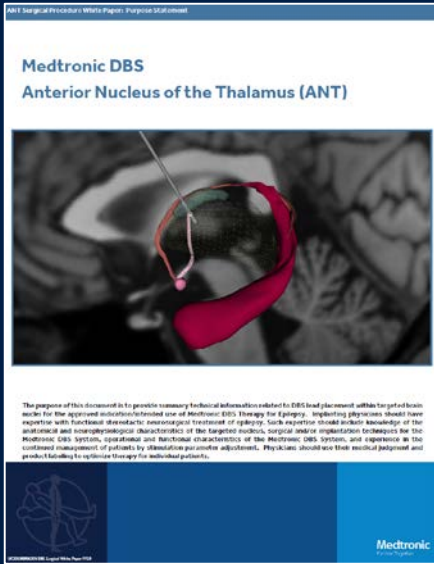


Left parietal resection

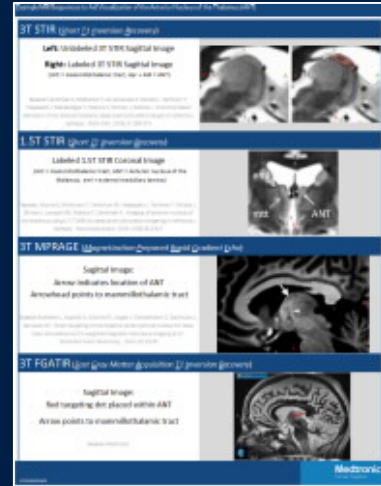


Images Courtesy of Dr. R Gross, Emory University Hospital

# PHYSICIAN RESOURCES:



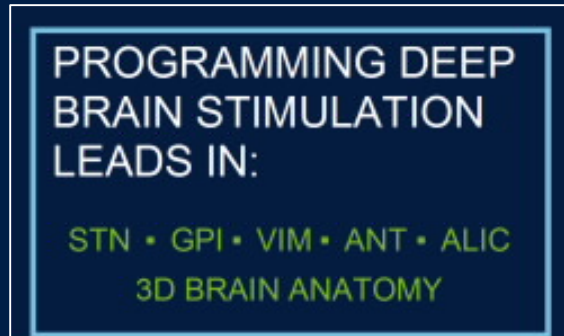
**ANT Surgical White Paper**



**Example ANT MRI Sequences**



**Surgical Target Fact Brief (Vim, GPi, STN, ANT)**



**DBS 3D Anatomy Flip Chart**



**Post-Op MRI Guidance (SAR vs B1+RMS)**



**Learn more about DBS therapy for Epilepsy (Brochure)**

# BRIEF STATEMENT: MEDTRONIC DBS FOR EPILEPSY

**Medtronic DBS Therapy for Epilepsy: Product labeling must be reviewed prior to use for detailed disclosure of risks.**

**Indications:** Bilateral stimulation of the anterior nucleus of the thalamus (ANT) using the Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy is indicated as an adjunctive therapy for reducing the frequency of seizures in individuals 18 years of age or older diagnosed with epilepsy characterized by partial-onset seizures, with or without secondary generalization, that are refractory to three or more antiepileptic medications.

The Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy has demonstrated safety and effectiveness for patients who average six or more seizures per month over the three most recent months prior to implant of the DBS system (with no more than 30 days between seizures). The Medtronic DBS System for Epilepsy has not been evaluated in patients with less frequent seizures.

**Contraindications:** Medtronic DBS Therapy is contraindicated for patients who are unable to properly operate the neurostimulator. The following procedures are contraindicated for patients with DBS systems: diathermy (e.g., shortwave diathermy, microwave diathermy or therapeutic ultrasound diathermy), which can cause neurostimulation system or tissue damage and can result in severe injury or death; Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS); and certain MRI procedures using a full body transmit radio-frequency (RF) coil, a receive-only head coil, or a head transmit coil that extends over the chest area if the patient has an implanted Soletra™ Model 7426 Neurostimulator, Kinetra™ Model 7428 Neurostimulator, Activa™ SC Model 37602 Neurostimulator, or Model 64001 or 64002 pocket adaptor.

**Warnings and Precautions:** There is a potential risk of brain tissue damage using stimulation parameter settings of high amplitudes and wide pulse widths. Extreme care should be used with lead implantation in patients with a heightened risk of intracranial hemorrhage. Sources of electromagnetic interference (EMI) may cause device damage or patient injury. Theft detectors and security screening devices may cause stimulation to switch ON or OFF and may cause some patients to experience a momentary increase in perceived stimulation. The DBS System may be affected by or adversely affect medical equipment such as cardiac pacemakers or therapies, cardioverter/defibrillators, external defibrillators, ultrasonic equipment, electrocautery, or radiation therapy. MRI conditions that may cause excessive heating at the lead electrodes which can result in serious injury, including coma, paralysis, or death, or that may cause device damage, include: neurostimulator implant location other than pectoral and abdominal regions; unapproved MRI parameters; partial system explants ("abandoned systems"); misidentification of neurostimulator model numbers; and broken conductor wires (in the lead, extension or pocket adaptor). The safety of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) in patients receiving DBS Therapy has not been established. Tunneling the extension too superficially or too deeply may result in nerve or vascular injury, or tunneling through unintended anatomy. The lead-extension connector should not be placed in the soft tissues of the neck due to an increased incidence of lead fracture. Cessation, reduction, or initiation of stimulation may potentially lead to an increase in seizure frequency, severity, and new types of seizures. Symptoms may return with an intensity greater than was experienced prior to system implant, including the potential for status epilepticus. Loss of coordination in activities such as swimming may occur. Depression, suicidal ideations and suicide have been reported in patients receiving Medtronic DBS Therapy for Epilepsy, although no direct cause-and-effect relationship has been established. Preoperatively, assess patients for depression and carefully balance this risk with the potential clinical benefit. Postoperatively, monitor patients closely for new or changing symptoms of depression and manage these symptoms appropriately. Patients should be monitored for memory impairment. Memory impairment has been reported in patients receiving Medtronic DBS Therapy for Epilepsy, although no direct cause and effect relationship has been established. The consequences of failing to monitor patients are unknown. When stimulation is adjusted, monitor patients for new or increased seizures, tingling sensation, change in mood, or confusion.

**Adverse Events:** Adverse events related to the therapy, device, or procedure can include intracranial hemorrhage, cerebral infarction, CSF leak, pneumocephalus, seizures, surgical site complications (including pain, infection, dehiscence, erosion, seroma, and hematoma), meningitis, encephalitis, brain abscess, cerebral edema, aseptic cyst formation, device complications (including lead fracture and device migration) that may require revision or explant, extension fibrosis (tightening or bowstringing), new or exacerbation of neurological symptoms (including vision disorders, speech and swallowing disorders, motor coordination and balance disorders, sensory disturbances, cognitive impairment, and sleep disorders), psychiatric and behavioral disorders (including psychosis and abnormal thinking), cough, shocking or jolting sensation, ineffective therapy and weight gain or loss.

The safety and effectiveness of this therapy has not been established for patients without partial-onset seizures, patients who are pregnant or nursing, patients under the age of 18 years, patients with coagulopathies, and patients older than 65 years.

**Medtronic DBS systems are MR Conditional which means they are marked to indicate they are safe in the MR environment as long as certain conditions are met. Read and fully understand the *MRI Guidelines for Medtronic deep brain stimulation systems* before conducting the MRI examination. Go to [www.medtronic.com/mri](http://www.medtronic.com/mri) or contact Medtronic at 1-800-707-0933 for a copy. Also review current MRI manufacturer labeling before conducting the MRI.**

USA Rx Only Rev 06/18

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order of citation:

- Finnis KW, Medtronic DBS Simulator
- Mottonen T, Katisko J, Haapasalo J, Tahtinen T, Kiekara T, Kahara V, Peltola J, Ohman J, Lehtimaki K. Defining the anterior nucleus of the thalamus (ANT) as a deep brain stimulation target in refractory epilepsy: Delineation using 3T MRI and intraoperative microelectrode recording. *Neuroimage Clin.* 2015;7:823-829
- Mueller SG, Laxer KD, Barakos J, Cheong I, Finlay D, Garcia P, Cardenas-Nicolson V, Weiner MW. Involvement of the thalamocortical network in TLE with and without mesiotemporal sclerosis. *Epilepsia.* 2010;51(8): 1436-1445
- Lehtimaki K, Mottonen T, Jarventausta K, Katisko J, Tahtinen T, Haapasalo J, Niskakangas T, Kiekara T, Ohman J, Peltola J. Outcome based definition of the anterior thalamic deep brain stimulation target in refractory epilepsy. *Brain Stim.* 2016;9:268-275
- Jiltsova E, Mottonen T, Fahlstrom M, Haapasalo J, Tahtinen T, Peltola J, Ohman J, Larsson EM, Kiekara T, Lehtimaki K. Imaging of anterior nucleus of thalamus using 1.5T MRI for deep brain stimulation targeting in refractory epilepsy. *Neuromodulation.* 2016;19(8):812-817
- Buentjen L, Kopitzki K, Schmitt FC, Voges J, Tempelmann C, Kaufmann J, Kanowski M. Direct targeting of the thalamic anteroventral nucleus for deep brain stimulation by T1-weighted magnetic resonance imaging at 3T. *Stereotact Funct Neurosurg.* 2014;92:25-30
- Riley HA. *An Atlas of the Basal Ganglia, Brain Stem and Spinal Cord (Based on Myelin-Stained Material).* Williams & Wilkins Co, Baltimore. 1943
- Jarvenpaa S, Rosti-Otajarvi E, Rainesalo S, Laukkanen L, Lehtimaki K, Peltola J. Executive functions may predict outcome in deep brain stimulation of anterior nucleus of thalamus for treatment of refractory epilepsy. *Front Neurol.* 9(May):324;1-8
- Web Reference for Brain Atlas image [Slide 10]:  
<https://www.braininteratlas.be/en/chapter/dorsal-thalamus#slideshow-13>  
Parent Page: <https://www.braininteratlas.be/en>  
Last Accessed: Jan 30, 2019
- Lehtimaki K, Coenen VA, Ferreira AG, Boon P, Elger C, Taylor RS, Ryvlin P, Gil-Nagel A, Gielen F, Brionne TC, Abouihia A, Beth G. The surgical approach to the anterior nucleus of thalamus in patients with refractory epilepsy: Experience from the international multicenter registry (MORE). *Neurosurgery.* 2018; Mar 15.
- Fuju S, Kanasaki Y, Matsusue E, Kakite S, Kminou T, Ogawa T. Demonstration of cerebral venous variations in the region of the third ventricle on phase-sensitive imaging. *AJNR.* 2010;31:55-59