

Janet L. Scudiero
Executive Secretary
Neurological Devices Panel, FDA

January 17, 2007

Dear Janet,

My name is Garrett Aguilar. I live in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I am happily married. I am the mother of 5 children, ranging from the ages of 23 to 4, and I have a very successful business, which I love. This was not the case, however, in September of 2004.

Depression had pretty much taken hold of my life for two years, I was on medication which was not working for me. I had severe allergic reactions, very uncomfortable side effects and my depression still grew worse and had pretty much spiralled out of control. I had a part time job that was difficult for me to execute and could hardly get out of bed in the morning. My two small children were my only reason for getting up, they would come in every morning needing attention. My role as wife and mother was a big struggle as was everything in my life. I was distraught and very, very depressed. A friend told me about an ad for a depression study on the radio and I called the phone number. That was in September. Six weeks later, after interviews and tests, I started as a participant in the study. Going into Philadelphia scared me, I was not street savvy. I took the train to 30th street station and walked several blocks every day. It was during the holidays, and I was cold and miserable. I would get into the office and fill out paperwork and sit in a chair with a device attached to my head for 35-40 minutes 5 days a week, for six weeks. I continued through the holidays. If you don't think that is hard! Every day, it took 3 hours or more, every day. But I had no other choice if I wanted to survive. That is how I felt. At the end of that 6 weeks, I felt worse, I had the placebo, as I found out later. I was in bad shape. Christmas was here and I was devastated, miserable and distraught.

I was offered another opportunity to use the NeuroStar Device with the real thing, the open label with the magnetic energy stimulation, I said YES. Again, survival. I just wanted my life back. So, again, I started all over. I took the train in, sat in the chair, three hours every day, 5 days a week for 6 weeks. In the fourth week, I started to feel a lift of my depression, as it felt less intense, I felt a little better. I didn't know if this was wishful thinking on my part, but I was hopeful that it was the device. At the six week mark, I felt at a safe level. I was not excited about life, full of joy and all that person I used to be, but I felt I could maintain this level and survive. It was doable. At that six week meeting, Dr. O'Reardon told me that I should continue to feel better. I had given up on going back to being the real me, the positive attitude, look on the bright side of life, rose colored glasses girl. That was where I wanted to be, but I thought it was gone for good, unattainable now. Well, he was right... I'm back!!!! I'm me.

My life, as I mentioned above, is really good now. Things have changed completely for me since I did the NeuroStar TMS Study. The device truly has given me my life back, even better, and I am so grateful. Now that I know personally how valuable the NeuroStar is, I have family and many friends who I want desperately to share this device with, who suffer from depression. So many people can benefit from the NeuroStar. Please, please realize the value of this device and the life it could be giving back to so many who can't have it now. Please pass the NeuroStar through the FDA so more people can be helped with the debilitating illness of depression.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at solewoman2@yahoo.com.

Best Wishes, Garrett Aguilar
NeuroStar TMS Study Participant