

I am a psychiatrist and have been involved in the evaluation and treatment of patients with mood disorders for over 40 years. My current practice is focussed on patients with treatment refractory unipolar and bipolar depression. I am writing to you in the hope that the FDA panel meeting on January 26, 2007 will favorably consider the approval of transcranial magnetic stimulation for the treatment of depression

Although it would appear that there are several approved treatments for depression, there remains a large cohort of individuals who do not respond to the available treatment options. TMS offers a new opportunity for these people.

We have learned from the recently completed STAR*D study that depression-even beginning in a community setting-is difficult to treat. Additional treatment options, such as TMS, provide a glimmer of hope for a new and healthy life for depressed patients

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information to you. I have no financial interest in the companies that manufacture TMS devices. I was a co-investigator at the University of Washington site that conducts TMS studies.

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