Passage 3

A study on a handful of people with suspected mild Alzheimer's disease (AD) suggests that a device that sends continuous electrical impulses to specific "memory" regions of the brain appears to increase neuronal activity. Results of the study using deep brain stimulation, a therapy already used in some patients with Parkinson's disease and depression, may offer hope for some with AD, an intractable disease with no cure.

AD is a progressive and lethal dementia that mostly strikes the elderly. It affects memory, thinking and behavior. Estimates vary, but experts suggest that as many as 5.1 million Americans may have AD. Smith says decades of research have yet to lead to clear understanding of its causes or to successful treatments that stop progression.

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) requires surgical implantation of a brain pacemaker, which sends electrical impulses to specific parts of the brain. For the study, surgeons implanted a tiny electrode able to deliver a low-grade electrical pulse close to the fornix, a key nerve tract in brain memory circuits.

147 . Alzheimer's disease ..... .

a. can be treated provided that it is mild
b. is expected to worsen in the course of time
c. has so far afflicted a handful of people
d. resembles the Parkinson's altogether

148 . As a treatment, deep stimulation of the brain ..... .

a. was initially used for Alzheimer's sufferers
b. turned Alzheimer's to a curable disease
c. was already practiced with certain other diseases
d. eradicated the brain's negative neural activities

149 . The treatment targeting Alzheimer's so far ..... .

a. remains to be well settled
b. substitutes Parkinson's remedy
c. is rather conclusive
d. is quite optimal

150 . The researchers are ..... .

a. far from understanding what underpins Alzheimer's
b. still looking for a device stimulating the brain
c. estimating the exact number of Alzheimer's sufferers in the world
d. making progress toward what strikes the elderly

151 . To stimulate the brain, surgeons ..... .

a. should distract the key nerve in the brain
b. send intensive impulses to the brain
c. should highlight the brain's memory capacity
d. set the brain pacemaker near the fornix