

# Product Review: BeechBand

The possibility of better days to come...

## Mike Hayden

### Pros and Cons

#### Pros:

- Sleek, modern design
- Simple setup
- Non-invasive
- Low cost
- Active customer support and online community

#### Cons:

- Battery life
- No battery status indicator
- No battery charger or USB-C charging cable delivered.
- No evidence-based proof of concept currently anecdotal
- Not waterproof

#### Price

£49.50 GBP Sale price+ Postage and packaging. Tax incl.

#### Summary

The BeechBand is a simple, non-invasive device that helps alleviate Parkinson's symptoms with continuous use. In my experience, it works well alongside medication, noticeably reducing symptoms. The company could improve features like battery life and waterproofing. Having started as a sceptic, I now support the product.



In the ever-evolving world of wearable devices such as Fitness Trackers, Smart Watches and SmartGlass's, to name some examples, comes BeechBand: -

From the images below, BeechBand is a wristband device, very much like a watch, which can be worn on either wrist. The device itself is a hands-free, non-invasive wearable device, which generates pulsating vibrations that function as a tactile sensation distracting the brain, freeing it up to regulate everyday tasks.

For clarity BeechBand is NOT a Medical device but a Wellness device, meaning it does not provide data to caregivers that could result in a cure or data that would be used to determine a certain treatment pathway. Wellness devices are not subject to anywhere near the



regulatory scrutiny as Medical devices.

BeechBand is a device that helps alleviate the symptoms of Parkinson's, bringing relief from mobility challenges, stress and communication issues providing 'the possibility of better days to come,' via its pulsating vibrations

## Design and Aesthetic Appeal

Beechband mission statement "From the very beginning of BeechBand design, the mission has been to provide relief to as many people as possible, as fast and affordably as can be achieved."

This has resulted in a non-invasive, minimalistic, no frills, easy to use watch-like wearable device, with only an on/off button and USB charging port for user interaction:

## Setup and Installation

Due to its minimalistic design, BeechBand is ready to use after plugging in a USB-C cable to charge (45mins - 1hr).

No USB-C cable is delivered with the device, this is a deliberate decision to keep costs to a minimum, as more often is the case that with the multitude of devices used in the home, e.g. mobile phones, tablets, a USB-C cable is already available in the home.

This is true for me, no provision of a USC-C cable, does not cause an issue for me, however this is not the case for ALL.



## Features and Functionality

As BeechBand is deliberately designed to be minimalistic the main feature is the pulsating vibrations generation.

Also worth mentioning is: -

1. Battery life, stated as 2 -3hrs my experience in use, is 3hrs. This short usage period is in part alleviated by the rapid charging of 45mins but remains an issue.
2. No-LED or other form of indicator for battery charging. There is no feedback from the device of its status or if it is working.
3. Water proofing, BeechBand is NOT waterproof and as such cannot be used whilst bathing or in a shower.
4. The watch strap is a standard silicon 20mm replaceable watch strap.
5. Audible noise, which can be disturbing. My experience is I quickly got used to it but people around me either found it distracting or became interested once they learnt the purpose, making it a talking point, that at times I did not wish to discuss.

## Performance and User Experience

I have been using BeechBand since Tuesday 22nd July, as I'm writing this review it is Sunday 17th August, coming up to 4 weeks of use.

During this period I have typically been using my Beech Band 9hrs per day, having the need to recharge 4 times daily, which becomes a challenge when out and about.

Since using BeechBand I

have noticed changes brought.

Initially diagnosed on 1st July 2022 with Akinetic rigid syndrome – probable idiopathic Parkinson’s disease, which was subsequently confirmed following a diagnostic MR brain scan, September 2022. Drug treatment is used to manage my symptoms, being: -

1. Left side rigidity.
2. Demeanour issues, lack of overt happiness
3. In the past year freezing of movement, as my symptoms have progressed.

My personality is one of natural curiosity, I must admit being very sceptical initially. My professional background includes product management in diagnostic imaging, a field where it is often the case of over stating benefits of innovative technologies, to put it kindly.

The claim made by the company is: -

BeechBand, a simple watch-like wearable worn on the wrist, creating rhythmic pulsing vibrations, to alleviate Parkinson’s symptoms, it will NOT cure.

The company is aware that BeechBand is not a cure, its effects are not always instant and may build gradually over time. Which is reported by users in regular daily use for an ever-increasing number of users.

BeechBand can be worn on either wrist, the company recommend you try it first on the opposite wrist to the most affected side of your body (if applicable to your symptoms).

It is reported that, some users find it most beneficial to strap it to their ankle, but there is little information on this form of application.

## My Experience

Where I am today, after less than 4 weeks of use on my left wrist is: -

1. I still suffer from left side rigidity, however when wearing my BeechBand, the rigidity of movements in my left side is tangibly improved although not eliminated.
2. My demeanour is improved, this the area of greatest improvement, with my youngest son commenting ‘it’s great to see dad laugh again.’
3. The number of freezing incidents is reduced if not fully eliminated, when using.

What is also noticeable is the rapid return of Parkinson’s symptoms once the device is removed, to recharge as an example, hence the battery charge capacity is such a critical issue.

The benefits of BeechBand are NOT instant. Its benefits often build gradually over time and may not work for you, as everyone and their symptoms are different. The company experience is that for some, it can be up to 6 weeks before a change is tangible and experienced.

My experience was following 9 days of continuous usage; I became aware of a lessening occurrence of my Parkinson’s symptoms – IT REALLY WORKS FOR ME.

## Customer Support and Warranty

BeechBand comes with a 6-month warranty, covering defects in materials and workmanship, under normal use.

Additionally, if you feel the product does not deliver the benefits expected, you can return within 45 days for a quibble-free refund, providing it is in a like-new condition.

Whilst BeechBand is a very simple device, the company provides post-sales support, users should email - support@beechband.com.

There is a BeechBand Facebook community where users are encouraged to join via 'BeechBand Community.'

As an example, a number of people shared their use of 2 BeechBand devices, to get around the limited battery charge time frame of 2 -3hrs.

N.B. The current product is a first release device; a second release is planned for the end of 2025, with greater battery charge capacity, potentially charge indicator and water proofing.

The design principle remains "to provide relief to as many people as possible, as fast, and affordably as we can."

## Conclusion

The possibility of better days to come...

The BeechBand is a simple non-invasive device that typically following a period of continuous use benefits the User by alleviating the impact of Parkinson's symptoms.

Whilst not transformational my experience is positive and when used in conjunction with my medication, as it should be, I and those around me, noticed a positive reduction in the incidence of Parkinson's symptoms,

making the possibility of better days - REAL...

There remains work to be done by the company, on future enhancements, such as battery life capacity, water proofing as ex-

amples.

IF ASKED, I WOULD CERTAINLY RESPOND POSITIVELY, I NOW FIND MYSELF AS A PROMOTER HAVING INITIALLY BEING A SCEPTIC.

I'M A BB BELIEVER.

Beechband Website:

<https://www.beechband.com>

