A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of MK-0677 25mg in Slowing the Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease

The Washington University Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center is looking for volunteers to participate in a study of MK-0677. This phase II study is sponsored by Merck. The purpose of this study is to find out if MK-0677 is a safe and effective treatment for mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease. MK-0677 is an investigational drug; it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A toxic form of Abeta is the main ingredient of plaques that form in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease. In animals that have been made to have Alzheimer’s disease, IFG-1 (a form of human growth factor) has been found to help get rid of Abeta in the brain. MK-0677 increases levels of IGF-1. Taking MK-0677 may increase the levels of IGF-1 in the blood, which may help the body get rid of toxic Abeta. This may help people with Alzheimer’s disease.

Participants and their caregivers would need to come to Washington University School of Medicine for 12 visits over the 15-month study period. They will be asked to take one study pill each morning. There is a 50/50 chance of getting the study drug or the placebo (sugar pill). Paper-pencil testing, interviews, laboratory tests, electrocardiograms (heart tracings), and physical examinations will be done at various times during the study to test the drug’s safety and efficacy. The following side effects have been reported in persons who have taken MK-0677: muscle aches and pains, edema (swelling), headache, higher fasting blood sugars and/or insulin levels, and elevated liver enzymes levels, increases in blood cortisol (the main steroid hormone) and prolactin (important hormone for milk production) levels, dizziness, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, abdominal pain, weight gain, urinary tract infection, upper respiratory infection. The following rare events were reported in subjects taking MK-0677: breast cancer and abnormal formation of blood clots.

To qualify, subjects need to be in generally good physical health and have the diagnosis of mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease. Persons who have diabetes or who have had a heart attack, stroke, TIA, or cancer within the last 2 years are ineligible. Subjects also need to live with a caregiver. The caregiver is responsible for giving the study medication and making sure the participant makes it to all of the study visits. All study procedures and medication are paid for by Merck. Participants will receive no other compensation for participation.

Participation in the study is completely voluntary. Participants’ identity and information will be held with absolute confidentiality.

If you are interested in finding out more about the study, please contact Angie Berry, RN, MSN, CCRA at 314-286-1970 or Wendy Overkamp, BA at 314-286-1971.