



Seeking Adults with Down Syndrome to Participate in a Research Study

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is seeking adults with Down syndrome to participate in a research study entitled, "Neurodegeneration in Aging Down Syndrome." Participants need to be at least 25 years of age. The study involves both cognitive testing and scans of the brain via MRI and PET. There is thought to be a higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and dementia among individuals with Down syndrome than in the general population. Amyloid plaques (a protein that accumulates outside of nerve cells) are found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease and are thought to play a significant role in the development of symptoms. The gene that makes the amyloid protein is on the 21st chromosome. Individuals with Down syndrome have an extra 21st chromosome and, therefore, may be at increased risk of developing amyloid plaque deposits. These can begin to develop in the brain many years before any memory loss or changes in functioning occur.

The study will consist of four visits over a 4 year period. Each visit will take approximately two days to complete. A relative or caregiver will complete a set of questionnaires while the adult with Down syndrome undergoes a physical examination and completes a range of cognitive tests. Some of the visits will also include an MRI and PET Scans. In addition, there will be a blood draw.

Participants will be compensated for their time and expenses. Funds are available for participants and caregivers who reside a distance from the Pittsburgh to stay overnight.

For additional information please contact:

Cathy Wolfe, M.Ed., BCBA
Project Coordinator
412-235-5412
wolfec@upmc.edu

Masha Glukhovskaya, BS
Study Recruiter
412-235-5486
glukhovskayam2@upmc.edu

Visit our website:

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