



Research Study Announcement

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Down Syndrome Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh are seeking adults (ages 30 and above) with Down syndrome to participate in a research study involving a MRI and a PET SCAN. The research study will be aimed at imaging amyloid in the brains of healthy patients with Down syndrome. Amyloid plaques are found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease. The gene that makes the amyloid protein is on chromosome 21. Individuals with Down syndrome have the extra chromosome 21 and may also develop amyloid plaque deposits (which are seen in Alzheimer's disease) much earlier than in people without Down syndrome. These amyloid plaques can begin to develop in the brain many years before any memory loss occurs. Until this time, determining the presence of amyloid plaques in the brain could only be analyzed through autopsy.

The study will consist of two (2) visits (which can be completed during a single, two-day stay in Pittsburgh). The first visit will take at least 4 hours and includes: description of the study, reviewing the procedures of the MRI and PET SCAN via video and pictures, signing a consent form, having a relative or caregiver complete a set of questionnaires, and having the adult with Down syndrome complete a range of neuropsychological tests. The second visit will take around 4 hours and will include: review of the procedures of the tests; the MRI which will take approximately 30 minutes; and the PET SCAN which will take approximately 1 hour. 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 few hours from the Medical Center to stay overnight in the Pittsburgh area. This will allow the two study visits to be completed over two consecutive days.

Please call Sheila Cannon, project coordinator, at the Down Syndrome Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (412-692-7963) or Sarah Clayton, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (412-235-5485) if you would like additional information.



University of Pittsburgh