

Tulsa Clinical Research, LLC – Information

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Rare opportunity for children with Down syndrome

It is well known that children with Down syndrome are at an increased risk to develop Alzheimer's disease, as they reach an older age. At present, however, there is no proven treatment to prevent or halt the cognitive or language impairments, nor does anybody know whether or not every child with this syndrome will develop dementia.

Recent studies with adults indicate that it may be possible to improve the cognitive and language performance of persons with Down syndrome by administering a specific medication used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

This same drug will now be tested in an upcoming clinical research study in Tulsa. Children between the ages of 10 to 17 years may, if they qualify, have the rare opportunity to participate in this pivotal study that will be conducted by Dr. Ralph Richter and his research team. Dr. Richter, a practicing neurologist in Tulsa, is well known nationwide for his vast expertise in the field of Alzheimer's disease.

The study is scheduled to start enrollment this month. Information can be obtained at Tulsa Clinical Research, phone numbers 877-798-7425 or 918-743-2349.

Down syndrome, also known as trisomy 21, is a hereditary disorder due to an extra copy of chromosome 21. This relatively common birth defect causes mental retardation, a characteristic facial appearance as well as multiple malformations. The chromosomal abnormality affects both the physical and the intellectual development of the individual. It is the intellectual handicap in Down syndrome that often poses the most important problem. This handicap tends to become increasingly noticeable during childhood as developmental delay. In adults with Down syndrome the intellectual handicap is manifest as mental retardation. According to epidemiological findings 25% of Down individuals develop dementia.

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