

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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Patients sought for diastolic heart failure, depression, Hepatitis C clinical trials

DALLAS – May 20, 2004 – Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are seeking patients to participate in medical studies on diastolic heart failure, depression and Hepatitis C. All clinical trials are approved by UT Southwestern's Institutional Review Board, which reviews them for benefits, risks, side effects and informed consent.

Diastolic heart failure

Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Presbyterian Hospital are investigating the effects of aging and exercise on heart function. This National Institutes of Health-funded study is investigating the role that exercise training may play in improving cardiovascular function in patients with a history of heart failure, but whose hearts beat normally based on normal ejection fraction. To qualify, patients must be at least 65 years of age and diagnosed as having heart failure or excess fluid in the lungs or legs. Patients with high blood pressure or who experience shortness of breath with minimal exertion may also be good candidates. Participants will receive detailed cardiac measurements at no cost and be prescribed a personally supervised exercise-training program for one year. For more information, call 214-345-4654.

Depression

Psychiatrists at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are launching a study on a noninvasive treatment for depression using a magnetic device called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation. If you are between the ages 18 and 70 and have signs of depression, such as inability to enjoy or continue normal activities, difficulty in sleeping and low self-esteem that lasts for two or more months, call 214-648-2806 to enroll. Anyone who is pregnant or has a significant neurological disorder is not eligible.

Hepatitis C

People between ages 18 and 70 with Hepatitis C are needed for a study at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas to determine the effectiveness of two medications for treatment of the liver disease. All participants, who must have documented Hepatitis C, will be given screenings and treated at no charge with an active medication for the disease. People with bipolar disorder, a history of seizures or diseases that require chronic use of steroids, are not eligible. Anyone with a history of drug or alcohol abuse must have abstained from using the substances for at least two years prior to screening to be eligible. Participants also will receive regular physician visits and testing to monitor the effectiveness of treatment. If interested, call 214-648-4801.

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For information about other clinical trials at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas,
visit <http://www3.utsouthwestern.edu/patient/clinical.htm>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

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