

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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PATIENTS WANTED FOR BREAST CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

DALLAS – Sept. 24, 2003 – October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Three studies at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are being conducted to research the disease. Researchers are seeking patients to participate in trials on tamoxifen, ductal lavage, and markers of cancer cells. Any compensation will be based on the specific requirements of each study. All clinical trials are approved by UT Southwestern's Institutional Review Board, which reviews them for benefits, risks, side effects and informed consent.

Tamoxifen

Women at least 35 years of age are needed for a study at UT Southwestern to determine how the medication tamoxifen affects hormone levels and breast cells to reduce a woman's risk of breast cancer. Women who are at increased risk for breast cancer (typically a woman with a family history of breast cancer or a breast biopsy that showed precancerous changes) are eligible to participate. Participants undergo sampling of their breast tissue using a small needle. Samples of breast tissue and blood are analyzed to determine how hormone levels have changed and how the breast tissue itself has changed. Volunteers receive study medication for their participation. For more information, call 214-648-7020.

Ductal lavage

Women at least 18 years of age with no history of breast cancer but considered at high risk for the disease are needed for a study at UT Southwestern. Researchers are analyzing the cells that line the breast ducts to look for any visible precancerous changes to determine if a new technique for obtaining milk duct cells, called nipple duct lavage, is effective in determining a woman's risk for breast cancer. Women who participate in the study will undergo nipple duct lavage every six months for three years and then follow-ups for two additional years. To be eligible, participants must have an increased risk of developing breast cancer, which might be suggested by a family history, prior breast biopsies, or having a baby later in life. For more information, call 214-648-1995.

Markers of cancer cells

UT Southwestern researchers are looking for women, 18 years and older, regardless of breast cancer history or risk, for a study that is exploring how normal breast cells turn into cancer cells over time. Women who participate in this study undergo sampling of their breast cells using a small needle after numbing the skin and breast tissue with a local anesthetic. DNA is also extracted from the cells to look for more subtle changes that would indicate that the cells are beginning to acquire some of the characteristics of cancer cells. Patients will receive a comprehensive breast cancer risk assessment for their participation. For more information, call 214-648-1995.

For information about other clinical trials at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas,

visit <http://www3.utsouthwestern.edu/patient/clinicaltrial.htm>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

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