

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Media Contact: Staishy Bostick Siem
214-648-3404
staishy.siem@utsouthwestern.edu

Patients sought for osteoporosis, recurrent depression and low-back pain clinical trials

DALLAS – Dec. 20, 2004 – Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are seeking patients to participate in medical studies on osteoporosis, recurrent depression and low-back pain. All clinical trials are approved by UT Southwestern's Institutional Review Board, which reviews them for benefits, risks, side effects and informed consent.

Osteoporosis

UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas researchers are looking for women ages 55 and older who have osteoporosis, but are not taking estrogen or prescription drugs for the disease. The 4 ½-year study will compare the effectiveness and safety of two osteoporosis drugs. Study participants will receive regular supervision, periodic X-rays, bone-density tests and laboratory evaluations, with appointments scheduled every three months during the first year and every six months afterward until study completion. Study-related tests and medication will be provided at no charge. For more information, call 214-648-8666.

Recurrent depression

UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas' psychiatry department is recruiting individuals, ages 18 to 70, who have suffered from major depression more than once in their lives for a research study on cognitive therapy – short-term psychotherapy focusing on combating negative patterns of thinking and developing coping skills. Participants will receive 16 to 20 therapy sessions, with some being treated afterward with additional cognitive therapy, antidepressant medication or pill placebo. Individuals must not be receiving any current treatment for depression, have no current alcohol or drug dependence and must have experienced at least two episodes of major depression. For more information, call 214-648-5351.

Low-back pain

Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are looking for participants for a study on low-back pain caused by a recent injury. This study is examining which treatments are most effective for alleviating and preventing chronic back pain. Participants must have recently developed pain in their lower back and this must be the first time they have experienced significant low-back pain. Study related screening, treatment, medication and financial compensation will be provided to those who qualify. For more information, call 214-648-0701.

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For information about other clinical trials at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas,
visit <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/home/research/clinicaltrials/index.html>