AADC Gene Therapy for Parkinson’s Disease

Have you been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease for at least 5 years and have varying response to your current medication?

If so, you may be eligible for a new gene therapy study at UCSF.

STUDY DETAILS:

•What is the goal of this study? The purpose of this study is to test the safety and tolerability of the transfer of a gene, AADC (aromatic amino acid decarboxylase) into the brains of people with moderately advanced Parkinson’s disease. In this study, the AADC gene will be delivered to a specific area of the brain and it may increase dopamine production in the brain. It is the third study of its kind. The study will also assess the effect of the treatment on clinical tests, such as mobility.

•What is AADC? AADC is an enzyme in the brain that converts levodopa into dopamine which the brain can use to improve Parkinson’s symptoms. This treatment may enable Parkinson’s disease patients to receive the same benefits from a lower dose of levodopa medication.

•Who qualifies for the study? Individuals who have been diagnosed and received treatment for Parkinson’s disease for at least 5 years and are between the ages of 40 and 70 may be eligible to participate.

•What is involved if I participate? Volunteers for this study will participate in 18 visits over a three year period with the bulk of the study visits occurring in the first year after the surgery. Study participants will receive the study drug through surgical delivery into the brain and then undergo Parkinson’s disease specific tests and assessments.

•Will I be compensated for participation? Participants will receive study procedures at no charge. The study will pay for all valet parking fees for study visits and gift cards will be given to participants to pay for meals on most of the study visit days.

If you are interested in participating or want to learn more, please contact Marin Thompson: AADC@ucsf.edu or (415) 353-9666