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"PUSH STUDY" Pulmonary Hypertension Sickle Cell Disease and Hypoxia

Participants Brochure

2006

FAQ'S

What is this study about?

The University of Michigan along and the affiliated institutions are conducting the PUSH study. This study which hopes to increase knowledge about pulmonary hypertension (PHT) and how patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) are affected.

What is pulmonary hypertension?

Pulmonary hypertension (PHT) is high blood pressure of the lungs. Over time the pulmonary arteries (blood vessels leading from the heart to the lungs) can become thickened and narrowed, which increases the blood pressure in the lungs and causes the heart to work harder. This can cause problems with blood flow to the lungs.

What does this mean for people with sickle cell?

PHT is a major complication of sickle cell disease. It can be fatal if not treated. Very little is known about PHT in children with SCD. One cause for PHT in people with sickle cell disease is a lack of oxygen (hypoxia) in the tissues. However, there is good news! With screening and monitoring it may be possible to help reduce the risk of PHT in people with SCD.

How can you help?

We are looking for African Americans ages 3-20 years to participate in this study. Up to 200 individuals can be recruited in this study. Of these individuals, 85 out of 100 will be SCD patients. 15 out of 100 will be healthy individuals without sickle cell disease for comparisons (control). Participants without SCD should be generally healthy prior to their study evaluation. For participants with SCD, it must be at least three weeks

since the last hospitalization for any complication of SCD and you must be without recent complications (i.e. no painful episode in the past 3 weeks) of SCD.

Participants will be required to undergo a series of tests which include:

Echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart)
Pulmonary (Lung) Function Tests (if over 6 years old)
6 minute walk test (if over 6 years old)
Ultrasound of the Brain (if needed)
A small amount of blood will also be taken

What do you receive?

In addition to helping us improve our understanding of sickle cell disease and pulmonary hypertension all participants will receive:

- \$100 compensation
- \$35 gas card (for Speedway)

Compensation and Gas Card will be given at the end of your PUSH Study Visit.

Will you help?

If you are interested in helping with this study please **contact us [734-936-9814](tel:734-936-9814) or paulat@umich.edu**. You will be provided with more detailed information and we are more than happy to answer any questions that you may have!