

FREEZING OF GAIT STUDY

This study is for people with Parkinson's disease who have a syndrome called "freezing of gait". Freezing of gait is a term often used to describe the sudden stoppage of walking or problems with the initiation of walking. The purpose of this study is to examine if the ability to initiate walking can be improved by altering the activity of brain regions that contribute to movement planning, preparation and initiation. Brain activity will be modulated using a technique called transcranial direct current stimulation. This method uses a low intensity current that is applied to the surface of the scalp overlying the brain region of interest. The effects last for about one hour. During this time we will measure changes in the capacity to generate forward stepping.

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IN THE NEWS

EXCITING PARKINSON'S DISEASE TREATMENT NEWS

New York, NY, January 12, 2015 – The American Parkinson Disease Association is pleased to share with the Parkinson's community the arrival of two new medications in the treatment arsenal to address Parkinson's symptoms. Both of these therapies offer a better way to deliver carbidopa/levodopa medication.

RYTARY™, (pronounced rye-TAR-ee) approved by the Food and Drug Administration on January 8 is an extended release formulation of carbidopa/levodopa and is manufactured by Impax Pharmaceuticals. RYTARY™ is designed to address one of the most significant unmet needs for patients living with Parkinson's disease, which is

to reduce the amount of time during the day when their symptoms are not adequately controlled. This is a significant treatment option for the 1 million patients living with Parkinson's.

Patients who take carbidopa/levodopa may find over time that the drug becomes less effective and may experience a worsening of symptoms as the drug ceases to work successfully. As Rytary™ is developed to release more slowly over time it will maintain the levodopa levels and will provide greater treatment stability.

This treatment will help those in the middle stages of Parkinson Disease who have problems with wearing off of their medication.

RYTARY™ contains immediate release and extended-release beads, with a specific amount of carbidopa and levodopa in a 1:4 ratio, and provides both initial and extended levodopa plasma concentrations after a single dose. RYTARY™ may be swallowed whole or, for patients who have trouble swallowing, the capsule may be opened and the beads sprinkled on applesauce and consumed immediately. It will be available for commercial distribution in February 2015.

DUOPA™ approved January 12 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (carbidopa and levodopa developed by AbbVie) is an enteral suspension for the treatment of motor fluctuations for people with advanced Parkinson's disease. DUOPA™ is administered using a small, portable infusion pump that delivers carbidopa and levodopa directly into the small intestine for 16 continuous hours via a procedurally-placed tube.

Duopa™ is the first and only treatment providing 16 continuous hours of carbidopa and levodopa for motor fluctuations in advanced Parkinson Disease. In a clinical trial, patients treated with Duopa™ experienced significantly greater improvement in symptom control than patients treated with oral carbidopa-levodopa immediate release tablets.

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Duopa™ is for those patients with advanced Parkinson Disease wearing off or dyskinesia who cannot manage symptoms with regular tablets and other oral medications.

In Parkinson disease patients, the spontaneous emptying of the stomach becomes delayed and unpredictable, which can affect the timing of when orally administered medicines leave the stomach and are absorbed in the small intestine. DUOPA™ provides patients with the same active ingredients as orally-administered carbidopa and levodopa immediate release, but is delivered in a suspension that goes directly into the small intestine via a tube placed by a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy procedure with jejunal extension (PEG-J). This type of administration is intended to bypass the stomach.

Dr. David G. Standaert, Chairman of Scientific & Advisory Board of the American Parkinson Disease Association says, “These are two very exciting new treatments which offer new opportunities to patients at different stages of their disease and help to better control their symptoms.”

American Parkinson Disease Association recommends discussing these therapies with your neurologist before making any changes to your treatment plan.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE TAXICABS

The *Star Tribune* reported on March 1, 2015 that ramp-equipped taxicabs will be coming to Minneapolis. City officials have arranged these services with five different cab companies including Airport Taxi, Yellow Taxi, Green and White Taxi, Minneapolis Taxi and La Mexican Taxicab.

This is great news for the thousands of people in our city who no longer drive. See the article in the *Star Tribune* for more information.

THE PATIENT ACCESS NETWORK FOUNDATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Patient Access Network Foundation (PANF) is proud to announce the launch of its newest financial assistance program for patients being treated for Parkinson's disease. The new fund will be one of nearly 60 disease-specific funds offered by the PANF, spanning programs for cancer, chronic illnesses and rare diseases.

PANF's new Parkinson's disease fund will help eligible individuals and their families by paying for the out-of-pocket costs of critical medications; thereby reducing financial barriers to treatment and hopefully improving the quality of life for many people living with Parkinson's.

Patients who qualify for PANF's Parkinson's disease fund are eligible to receive up to \$16,500 per year to cover costs associated with their medications. To qualify, applicants need to have insurance that covers the medication for which they seek assistance, they need to reside and receive treatment in the United States, and they need to have a household income less than or equal to 500 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

For applications and eligibility questions, call 866-316-PANF (7263). To learn more, visit panfoundation.org/parkinsons-disease