Huntington’s Disease Clinical Research Study

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Contact Us for Information About This Study

Sponsored by a National Institutes of Health R21 grant.
About Huntington’s Disease

Huntington’s disease is a neurodegenerative genetic disorder that affects muscle coordination and leads to cognitive decline and dementia. It typically becomes noticeable in middle age but can occur in almost any age group. The disease is caused by a gene mutation, so any child of an affected parent has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the disease. Symptoms include abnormal movements, behavioral and psychiatric issues, cognitive changes and balance problems. Treatments are available for some symptoms of Huntington’s disease.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research is identify small molecules that can be measured in the blood and spinal fluid in order to determine the stage and severity of Huntington’s disease and to determine whether someone has Huntington’s disease. This is called mitochondrial metabolomics. Taking part in this research is completely voluntary.

Requirements for Participating

We are seeking volunteers with Huntington’s disease (HD) for a clinical research study called “Longitudinal Biospecimen Collection for Mitochondrial Metabolomics in Huntington’s Disease.”

Requirements to participate include:

-- Age 20 to 80 years
-- No other progressive neurological condition
-- If you have HD then you must have had genetic testing for the gene that causes HD before participating in this study

Study Design

-- This research study involves 3-4 visits to the Neurological Institute at University Hospitals over 18-19 months

-- 40 volunteers with HD and 25 volunteers without HD will be included in this study

-- Volunteers who have HD will have a physical examination at each study visit

-- There are blood tests and some volunteers will also have lumbar puncture