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Southwest
Autism
Research &
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Center

The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center Begins Recruitment for Potential Treatment for Autism

Phoenix, AZ, August, 2010 - The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center today announced the start of a Phase II clinical research study sponsored by Forest Laboratories, Inc., for the treatment of core symptoms of autism in children—communication and socialization. Autism can be a lifelong developmental disability that impairs a child’s ability to socialize and communicate with others. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), a group of developmental disabilities which includes “classic” autism, affects one out of every 150 children in the United States.

“This is a significant research initiative that may help advance the management of this disorder, which does not just affect the child—it can take a toll on the entire family,” said Dr. Raun Melmed, SARRC Co-founder, Medical Director and Principal Investigator for this clinical trial. “There is a real need for a medication that may address the core symptoms of autism to complement the effective behavioral and educational interventions that are currently used.”

The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center is among 16 research centers throughout the US participating in the **ConnectMe** study. Study medication, comprehensive study-related evaluations and all study-related medical care are provided at no cost to the family. The investigational medication being studied in **ConnectMe** contains the active ingredient memantine hydrochloride, in a dosage and administration unique to pediatric patients.

The Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center is seeking families in the greater Phoenix area with children between the ages of six and twelve who have a diagnosis of autism to participate in this research trial. Outreach has been made to over 2000 community organizations associated with autism to further encourage families to consider participating.

For further information about this clinical study call 602-218-8225 or e-mail soberreynolds@autismcenter.org or Google CONNECT ME.

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