

New use of an existing medication for sciatica

Purpose & Background

The Pain & Anaesthesia Research Clinic (PARC) and Emeritus Research is seeking patients with herniated intervertebral disc and persistent sciatica (back pain radiating into the lower extremity) to participate in a clinical trial. The trial medication has already been used in several hundred thousand patients, and is currently being used in Australia and other countries around the world to successfully treat conditions other than sciatic pain.

Sciatic pain occurs when one of the discs between the bones in the lower back bulges (herniates) and therefore irritates the sciatic nerve, a major nerve that provides sensation to the leg. Disc pressure on the sciatic nerve may often result in irritation, inflammation and nerve pain. The pain results in a burning sensation which extends from the lower back down one or both legs. Large well controlled trials have shown that most patients with sciatic pain recover without surgery over a period of two to twelve months after the onset of their pain. Since there is no approved therapy for sciatic pain during the two to twelve month natural recovery period, effective and safe treatments to reduce patients' pain and disability during this recovery period are urgently needed.

Benefits to Participation

- The trial medication may provide sufferers with pain relief not achieved by current treatments.
- Participants will be reimbursed for their time and inconvenience caused.
- Travel expenses to and from the research unit will be reimbursed.
- Participants' health will be monitored by qualified health professionals.
- Participants will be helping to advance medical research.

Main Eligibility Criteria

- Are aged 18 – 70
- Have had persistent and significant sciatic pain for less than six months
- Do not suffer significant pain from other sources

Other Information

This trial is being conducted by medically qualified professionals, and has received ethics committee approval from the Royal Adelaide Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee. If you choose to participate, your participation will not interfere with your relationship with your normal Doctor.

What next?

For more information please visit:

www.trialfacts.com/sciatica

Or call **1800 656 743** between 8:30am and 6:30pm, Monday to Friday.