

incorporate as many as 3,000 test subjects between the ages of 18-65. As in the Washington state study, patients in the Georgetown trial will be randomized into one of four groups: 1) active site acupuncture, with stimulation; 2) active acupuncture, without stimulation; 3) sham site acupuncture, with stimulation; and 4) sham acupuncture, without stimulation.

The trial will last 13 weeks, with all subjects receiving treatment at an escalating frequency, beginning at once per week and ending at three times per week. The scientists theorize that this form of care, known as "forced titration," helps them detect any differences between subjects in responsiveness to acupuncture, as well as any factors that may predict a response to treatment (or lack thereof). Other goals of the study include collecting data on the mechanism, safety and cost-effectiveness of acupuncture, as well as determining how to achieve the best possible results from care.

Eligibility Requirements

While the Washington state study is not yet open for patient recruitment, Georgetown researchers are currently recruiting patients for their trial. To be considered for the Georgetown study, patients must:

- meet the American College of Rheumatology's criteria for fibromyalgia;
- be a resident of the Washington, D.C. area;
- have continued, widespread pain for more than 50% of days;
- be willing to limit their consumption of any new medications or other forms of care related to the control of fibromyalgia symptoms during the course of the study; and
- be able to travel to the site of treatment up to three times per week, and to give informed consent to treatment.

Contact Information

For more information on the Washington state fibromyalgia study, contact Dr. Debra S. Buchwald of the Harborview Medical Center at (206) 731-8218. To find out more about the Georgetown study, contact Jo Anne Stanback at (202) 784-0042.

References

1. Questions and answers about fibromyalgia. Available from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (www.fhma.com/fibromyalgia.htm).
2. Fibromyalgia. Available online at www.rheumatology.org/patients/factsheet/fibromya.html.
3. *An Overview of the Fundamental Features of Fibromyalgia Syndrome*. Linden, VA: National Fibromyalgia Partnership, 1999.

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