



Making Life Better
through Research, Education & Healthcare.®

The USF Ataxia Research Center is pleased to announce a new research study for Friedreich's ataxia patients ("An open-label study of the effects of Acetyl-L-Carnitine on cardiovascular outcomes in Friedreich's Ataxia."). This study will be a 26-month trial where all subjects will receive Acetyl-L-Carnitine (ALCAR). There are 11 visits to the research clinic at the University of South Florida Morsani Center for Advanced Health Care. Study related procedures and medication will be provided by the sponsor.

The sponsor of the trial is USF's Department of Neurology and the study's lead investigator is Theresa Zesiewicz, MD, of the University of South Florida - Tampa, FL.

The overall goal of the trial is to determine changes in heart function. We will also look at changes in neurological and neuromuscular function.

Patients with Friedreich's ataxia who are interested in participating in the study at the Florida site should contact the USF Ataxia Research Center at 813-974-5909. To be eligible for participation, genetic confirmation of Friedreich's Ataxia is required. For more information on this research study, please click on the following link: www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01921868

ALCAR

Acetyl-L-Carnitine (ALCAR) is a derivative of carnitine, a water soluble molecule of importance in lipid metabolism. Studies have shown carnitine derivatives to have some effect on cardiovascular disease as well as possibly improving coordination. This trial will measure changes in cardiac function through a series of electrocardiograms and echocardiography.

About FA

Friedreich's ataxia is a rare, degenerative, life-shortening neuro-muscular disorder that affects children and adults, and involves the loss of strength and coordination usually leading to wheelchair use; diminished vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis (curvature of the spine); increased risk of diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. There are no FDA-approved treatments. For more information about FA, please visit <http://curefa.org/>.

IRB Protocol #: Pro00008499

PI: Theresa Zesiewicz, MD