

IH Study

Dr. Brandie Metz and colleagues from the Dermatology Department at the University of California, Irvine are conducting a research study looking for infants with proliferating infantile hemangiomas (IHs) that require medication. This study will evaluate the use of an investigational drug, V0400SB (also known propranolol) in the treatment of hemangiomas.

Usually, hemangiomas go through a growth phase in which the size increases rapidly, followed by a rest phase, and an involution phase in which there is a decrease in size. The growth usually takes place in the first 6 to 9 months of life. Then slowly over the years they become smaller and many go away completely by the age of 9 years old.

The treatment options for a growing hemangioma or a hemangioma with associated complications include medications (mainly corticosteroids), and/or removal with surgery and/or laser treatments. Oral corticosteroids are the most accepted and commonly used treatment for hemangiomas requiring treatment. However many do not respond to treatment and side effects are commonly seen; such as a decrease in the body's resistance and an increase in the chance of infection, decrease or delay of normal growth, round or moon-shaped face (cushingoid facial appearance), and the delaying of some of the body's hormone changes.

In less common cases, there is a concern, as serious problems may occur in some children with hemangiomas (such as ulceration or skin breakdown, which can bleed or become infected; blockage in vision, hearing, or breathing; change in how the features look; and, rarely, internal bleeding or heart failure). Hemangiomas require treatment either because they cause major changes to how the parts of the body look or they may harm the child's normal functions or life.

If your child is affected by a proliferating hemangioma and you wish to have your child receive treatment using the investigational drug, V0400SB, described above, please contact the Dermatology Research Department at the University of California, Irvine, Patricia Summerville, by telephone (949-824-7103) or e-mail (psummerv@uci.edu).

