

Primidone Treatment of Essential Tremor

Clinical Trial Status:

This study is currently recruiting patients

Clinical Trial Principal Investigator:

Dr. James Boyd

Clinical Trial Protocol Description:

Essential Tremor (ET) is one of the most common neurologic movement disorders in humans. ET symptoms can range from involuntary shaking of the arms and hands to head, face, leg and even voice shaking. Reports have estimated as much as 10% of the population is affected by ET.

Primidone is an anticonvulsant that has also proven to be an effective treatment for ET. Primidone has shown to reduce tremor for people with ET; yet it is unclear how. That is because Primidone has three active metabolites, and researchers have been unable to pinpoint which metabolite is suppressing tremors.

In this study, primidone that participants are currently taking will be administered in a controlled clinic setting, and Dr. Boyd and his study staff will monitor changes in tremor and blood levels of the medication. Our main goal is to better understand how the metabolites are being broken down by the body, and are related to tremor severity or reduction for each participant.

This study will require two visits to the Movement Disorders Clinic at the University of Vermont Medical Center, 1 South Prospect Street.

Clinical Trial Eligibility Criteria:

In order to participate you must meet the following criteria:

- Have received a clinical diagnosis of Essential Tremor
- Are at least 18 years of age
- Are currently taking primidone
- Are able to abstain from using caffeine and nicotine during the hours of study participation

You will not be eligible to participate if any of the following criteria apply to you:

- Have a history of epilepsy
- Currently smoke 10 or more cigarettes per day
- Currently consume 6 or more alcoholic beverages per day
- Are using treatments other than primidone for tremor on a daily basis

Note: this is a partial list of the inclusion and exclusion criteria

Clinical Research Coordinator:

Emily Houston

(802) 656-8974

Emily.houston@med.uvm.edu