

COVID-19 Vaccine Study for Patients with Multiple Sclerosis

The Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are now being widely distributed. However, it's unknown if any of the subjects in the clinical trials were receiving immunomodulating medication for Multiple Sclerosis or any other autoimmune disease. This is of concern to both doctors and patients in determining if these patients should receive the vaccine.

Proposed Research Study

Stanley Cohan, M.D., Ph.D., Providence Brain and Spine Institute MS Center, and Bernie Fox, Ph.D., Providence Cancer Institute, have developed a protocol to assess whether MS patients can mount an effective anti-COVID-19 response to vaccination if they are receiving medications that suppress or modulate the immune system.

We plan to measure the immunological response to the COVID-19 vaccine in five groups of patients. Four of these groups will be patients with MS currently treated with one of four different immunomodulating medications. The fifth group will consist of healthy volunteers.

The cost to conduct the study is \$75,000. Your support for this project is urgently needed to allow the study to begin immediately and be conducted over the next 4 months. The Providence Portland Medical Foundation Board will match all donations to this research study.

The results of these studies may have far-reaching implications for the strategies used to achieve effective COVID-19 immunization in patients receiving medications that suppress or modulate the immune system.

“Understanding the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine is a vital component in our care of patients receiving immunomodulating medications, and application extends beyond MS to include a wide range of patients with illnesses who receive immunomodulation or immune suppression in their care,” says Dr. Cohan.

Data analysis will be performed using the facilities and equipment of the Laboratory of Molecular and Tumor Immunology at the Earle A. Chiles Cancer Research Institute, under the direction of Dr. Bernie Fox.

We will have actionable data within 2 months of each patient's first vaccine dose and the study completed within 7 to 8 months.

Your gift today can ensure patients with MS and other autoimmune diseases understand how the COVID-19 vaccine may affect them and what options they have.

*For more information or to make your gift, please contact:
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