

Date: 07/21/2021

Re: A research study on Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus you may be interested in (IRB# 18-06259-IAA)

Dear Colleagues,

UTHSC Hamilton Eye Institute is participating in the Zoster Eye Disease Study (ZEDS), and we are writing to encourage you to refer patients with Herpes Zoster Ophthalmicus (HZO) to us. This very important randomized controlled clinical trial is aimed to determine if prolonged suppressive valacyclovir treatment for one year at 1000 mg daily reduces complications of HZO, including chronic eye disease and postherpetic neuralgia, when compared to placebo. This study has been funded by the National Eye Institute, and will enroll approximately 780 participants at 70-80 participating clinical centers.

Immunocompetent HZO patients with recent onset or chronic disease, age 18 years and above, with a history of a typical zoster rash, are eligible if they have had an episode of active dendriform keratitis, stromal keratitis, endothelial keratitis, and/or uveitis within the year prior to enrollment.

If you have a patient who you think may be interested in participating in this research study, please contact our study coordinator, Lin Yang, at (901)-570-3528 or lyang50@uthsc.edu, one of the study investigators at our center, or me by calling (901)-448-1911 or emailing me at pasbell@uthsc.edu. We are happy to answer any questions you may have, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Penny Asbell, MD, FACS, MBA
and Lin Yang, Study Coordinator

Date of Approval: 02/27/2020

Institutional Review Board

