PBTC-024 - A SUMMARY FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

TITLE: A Phase I Study of MK-0752 in Pediatric Patients with Recurrent or Refractory CNS Malignancies

This is a brief summary of a clinical trial, a type of therapeutic research study. Clinical trials include only patients who choose, or whose parents permit them, to take part in the research study. Participation is entirely voluntary.

WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PBTC-024?

Children older than 3 and less than 21 years of age, who have been diagnosed and treated previously for any type of high grade malignant glioma or a diffuse brain stem glioma may be eligible. Tumor type will need to be classified based on tissue samples except for brain stem glioma. Patients must have already received standard therapy, refused standard therapy or have no other standard therapy options at this time. Patients' tumors have either been unresponsive to prior treatment or have re-grown after prior treatment. Patients who are not eligible are those who are pregnant or breast-feeding or taking enzyme inducing anticonvulsant medication.

Patients will need medical tests to assess whether they can participate in PBTC-024. These tests may include a medical history, physical examination, blood and urine tests and scans (MRI) of the brain and spine. Other tests may be required if doctors believe they are necessary.
About 30 children from all over the U.S. will take part in PBTC-024.

WHY IS PBTC-024 BEING DONE?

PBTC-024 tests a new anticancer drug called MK-0752 for the first time in children with recurrent or treatment resistant malignant central nervous system tumors (CNS). This new drug affects the NOTCH pathway, central role to normal neural stem cell regulation and maintenance. In adults, MK-0752 affects this pathway in developing brain tumor cells. It is not yet known how children with CNS tumors will respond to MK-0752.

Specifically, PBTC-024 will find out

- The highest dose of MK-0752 that can be given in children with brain tumors without causing severe side effects;
- What effects (good or bad) may occur when MK-0752 is given
- How the body processes MK-0752 by studying the drug levels in the blood
- How CNS tumors in children respond to MK-0752 by studying blood tests;
- How CNS tumors in children respond to MK-0752 through special imaging studies.

Doctors and researchers are testing MK-0752 in children in the hopes that it will be a more effective treatment for pediatric CNS tumors than currently available therapies.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY?

MK-0752 is in capsule form and is swallowed. Study participants will take MK-0752 one day per week, followed by 6 days with no capsules ("off" treatment). A study participant will receive up to 6 months of MK-0752 on this schedule. If a child has benefited from taking MK-0752 and has not had any significant side effects, defined by researchers involved in PBTC-024 and it is in a child's best interest, a child may be able to continue taking MK-0752 for an additional 12 months.

If a child is unable to swallow the MK-0752 capsules, the capsules may be opened, mixed into a non-acidic beverage (such as water or milk) or thoroughly mixed into ice cream, for example, and swallowed within 10 minutes.

Doctors will require patients to provide very small amounts of blood for laboratory research to determine how a child's body handles MK-0752. Participation in this pharmacokinetic research is required in order to participate in the PBTC-024 study.

Doctors will also request if they can study brain tumor tissue, only if it already available, and cerebral spinal fluid, only if a child already has an Ommaya reservoir. These studies will help PBTC researchers understand CNS tumors and how MK-0752 affects the brain and the body.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN PBTC-024?

Doctors watch study participants very carefully for any side effects or other problems. However, doctors do not know all the side effects that may occur. Side effects may be mild or very serious. Some of the more common side effects have been stomach and intestinal problems, such as belly pain, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Some cancer patients experience extreme tiredness or chest pain or nose bleed or cramps. These side effects got better after MK-0752 was stopped.

MK-0752 causes certain side effects in animals. Studies in animals showed that their immune systems may weaken, increasing their risk of infections. Some studies in animals and in cells in laboratory dishes raise the question of whether MK-0752 might possibly cause cancer. Other animal studies show drugs like MK-0752 can work against cancer. However, MK-0752 has never been shown to directly cause or to prevent cancer in animals.

There may be unknown risks and discomforts involved in participating in this or any clinical trial. The health care team may give participants medicines to help lessen side effects. Doctors will notify parents and patients immediately of any important information or treatment findings discovered during the study that may affect their willingness to continue to participate.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PBTC-024?

If you would like more information, please contact the PBTC member institution closest to you.

You can also contact the doctors in charge of this study:

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OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH

The National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-422-6237 or TTY: 1-800-332-8615 or through the National Cancer Institute's websites:

- cancer.gov
- CancerTrials: comprehensive clinical trial information
- CancerNet: accurate cancer information