

TITLE: AEDs in Special Populations

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Our research team is currently investigating the use of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in two special populations: the elderly nursing home resident and pregnant women. Our current nursing home project is funded by NIH and is recruiting nursing homes in the twin cities area, New York, and California (UCSF). The main goal of this study is to determine if there are clinical consequences of fluctuating AED concentrations. Inclusion criteria are ≥ 60 years of age, currently taking phenytoin, lamotrigine, levetiracetam, or gabapentin, and not residing in a subacute care unit. Currently we have screened over 400 and have enrolled over 100 residents into the study.

We also have a one-year grant from the Epilepsy Foundation to investigate drug exposure and genetics in the first trimester of pregnancy in women who are taking lamotrigine. This is a supplemental grant that is funded by the Milken Foundation. Three clinical sites are recruiting for the study under the direction of Drs. Jacqueline French, Cynthia Hardin, Page Pennell.