

Purpose of the study

This research seeks to understand how aging in Down syndrome may lead to Alzheimer's disease and affect a person's memory and thinking as they get older.

The goals of this longitudinal project are:

- * to follow neurological, learning and memory changes in adults with Down syndrome as they age;
- * to examine brain changes using MRI and;
- * to measure blood biomarkers.

In combination, the study hopes to identify early markers of the development of Alzheimer's disease in Down syndrome.



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Down Syndrome Facts:

>More than 400,000 people in the United States have Down syndrome.

>Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition.

>Life expectancy has increased dramatically from 25 years a generation ago to greater than 60 years today.

>50% of people with Down syndrome age 55 and over may have Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's Disease Facts:

-Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.

-5.3 million people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease.

-Problems with memory and thinking are caused by loss of brain cells and are not part of normal aging.

-Studying the effects of Alzheimer's disease as people get older has allowed us to better understand the disease and begin to develop potential cures.

Aging and Down Syndrome Research Study



Who Can Join?

- Persons with Down syndrome age 25 and older with or without signs of Alzheimer's disease are eligible.
- Volunteers must be interested in participating in a five-year research study.
- You, a family member or caregiver will need to answer questions about your health.

For more information contact:

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Why Should I Join?

You can help us to better understand how memory and thinking change in persons with Down syndrome as they get older and why they are at a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease.

There will be no direct benefits to you from the research tests in this study. But, you may benefit from the medical examinations, blood tests and brain scans and they may show a disease or illness that needs further treatment. If we find a disease or illness, the study doctor will tell your guardian and your primary care doctor within 72 hours so that you can be treated.

Volunteers are being invited to take part in a research study involving 80-100 people with Down syndrome, which is being done as part of a study that is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

What will happen if I take part in the study?

-You will be scheduled for annual memory and thinking tests that can be done in a place convenient for you and your family.



-A yearly visit at the University of Kentucky for a general physical and neurological exam, complete blood tests to check you are in good general health, and a MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) brain scan. This visit will take about 3 hours, with breaks and snacks.