

Wound Research Alliance

“Providing Comprehensive Wound Healing Research Translation”

The Wound Research Alliance (WRA) connects industry, government, and academic collaborators with clinical research experts with the necessary resources to excel in clinical trial management. The WRA supports industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials which focus on optimizing patient outcomes by accelerating the development and delivery of innovative therapeutic wound healing solutions.

Partnering with the Wound Research Alliance offers these strategic benefits:

- Access to the University of Pittsburgh schools, centers, and institutes;
- Integration with the award-winning global health enterprise of UPMC including 8 wound healing treatment facilities with a significant patient population;
- Strong foundation of scientific and clinical leadership in wound healing in conducting clinical trials for industry and government;
- Concentration of research and clinical expertise in wound care management —more than 50 investigators across 10 clinical research outlets;
- Experience in all phases of clinical trial management: trial design and execution; regulatory compliance and quality management; patient recruitment and retention; database development, integration and reporting.

Vision

To be the world’s foremost wound healing research coalition advancing the translation of research discoveries to clinical implementation and patient benefit.

Mission

Dedicated to advancing wound care by applying innovative approaches, coalescing expertise and sharing knowledge for improved patient outcomes.

Organizational Objectives:

1. Accelerate the delivery of innovative therapeutic wound healing
2. Facilitate clinical trial excellence through novel approaches for wound healing management.
3. Foster multidisciplinary collaboration among academia and industry

ACTIVE CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDIES

Treating Pain at Amputation Sites using Fat Grafting

What is Fat Grafting? Fat grafting is a minimally invasive surgical procedure in which a person’s own fat may be used to improve the appearance of the body by moving it from an area where it is less needed. The fat is usually taken from the thighs or abdomen with a small liposuction tube and then moved to an area that has lost shape or fullness due to injury. This procedure is performed through very small incisions that allow a hollow tube to pass through.

Fat grafting is a common cosmetic and reconstructive procedure. It was performed approximately 65,000 times by plastic surgeons in the United States last year. Typically, the transferred fat results in an increase in volume and shape of the body site being treated. The fat graft can also be enhanced by concentrating the cells in the fat tissue before replacing them where they are needed. We believe these clinical techniques of fat grafting could be of significant benefit to patients with painful amputation stumps. The fat grafting procedure being performed in this trial is considered to be research, but not an experimental procedure.

Procedure Provided as Part of a Research Study In this clinical trial funded by the Department of Defense, we are comparing how effective standard fat grafting verses enhanced fat grafting is to 1.) reduce pain at the amputation site, 2.) increase ability to tolerate a prosthesis and 3.) maintain both objectives over time. All procedures for this research study will be performed at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Research Study Eligibility Civilian or Military (active duty or former members) men and women may be eligible for participation in this study. Research candidates, age 18 years and older who have suffered injury resulting in an amputation and currently experiencing pain, are at least 3 months' post-injury or post-surgery (from trauma procedure), and only limbs having volume deficits which are covered with intact skin will be evaluated.

Please click [here](#) to complete a pre-study assessment to determine study eligibility.

Financial Coverage Insurance providers will not be charged for the cost of any of the research procedures performed for the purpose of this research study and participants will receive reimbursement for participation, time and travel expenses

Research topics concerning this study to be discussed are

- How fat grafting procedures may affect personal discomfort, and specific information concerning the use of the prosthesis
- Description of research study procedures and time commitment
- Risks and benefits
- All research procedures to be conducted in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Clinical and Research Team

Dr. J. Peter Rubin, a board certified plastic surgeon and re-searcher at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, is the Principal Investigator for this project. Our team includes physician surgeons, scientific researchers and qualified staff with the knowledge and expertise to conduct the fat grafting procedure and to then evaluate the date collected over time to determine the effectiveness of this study.

For more information please contact Patsy Simon at simonpa@upmc.edu or by calling 412-641-8676