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**Effort to Identify an Effective Treatment for Psoriasis
Being Conducted by University of Tennessee Health Science Center Researchers**

Memphis, TN (Insert Date) – The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is looking for volunteers to participate in a research study being conducted by the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Dermatology to determine how Bicillin L-A, a commonly used antimicrobial drug (a drug that destroys germs), affects the course of psoriasis.

The study drug, Bicillin L-A, is an antibiotic that has been in use in the USA for more than 30 years. Bicillin L-A is a long-acting form of penicillin. Following intramuscular administration, Bicillin L-A is slowly released from the injection site and transformed into penicillin in the human body. The drug is presently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of certain streptococcus infections (a group of disease causing organisms, commonly known as strep) but not specifically for psoriasis.

The reasons why an individual develops psoriasis are not completely understood but the factors that may provoke a flare-up have been extensively sought and well described in the medical literature. In the course of this research it has been established that psoriasis may be triggered or worsened by throat infections from disease causing organisms. As Bicillin L-A is active against these disease causing organisms, there are some observations that the drug may be effective in the treatment of psoriasis.

To provide valid scientific evidence that Bicillin L-A is beneficial to psoriatic patients, it is necessary to perform a study in which the investigators will assess the improvement (if any) of the psoriasis skin conditions, comparing the study drug with an identical appearing inactive substance (known as placebo) that has no medical effect. Therefore, some individuals will receive the active drug (Bicillin L-A) and others will receive only the inactive substance (placebo). Because there is no animal model of psoriasis currently in use, it is necessary to enlist the help of persons who have active, hard-to-treat psoriasis in order to conduct such research.

Approximately 40 participants, aged 18-40, in good health, with psoriasis that does not improve with use of creams or ointments will take part in this study; 20 will receive Bicillin L-A and 20 will receive the placebo. Neither the doctor nor the volunteer participant will know whether the participant received the active drug or the placebo until after the study has been completed. Only in that way is it possible to be sure that the benefit observed, if any, was really due to Bicillin L-A. All study procedures and tests will be performed at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Preventive Medicine Research Clinic office at 66 N. Pauline, Ste. 501, Memphis, TN 38105.

A participant's involvement is about 4 months for clinic visits, then phone follow-up for 24 months. Preliminary studies suggest that a long-term course of Bicillin L-A, when successful, seems to provide a remission for chronic psoriasis.

The results of this study may benefit society by introducing a safe and cost-effective treatment for plaque-type psoriasis that cannot be further controlled by other psoriasis medications. This information could be helpful for finding the optimal treatment for other patients with psoriasis and contribute to the improvement of their quality of life.

Participants who complete the study will receive a total of \$275 for the time required to participate in the entire study.

Principal Investigator for the Psoriasis Study is Elias Wm. Rosenberg, MD, and Co-Investigators are Robert Skinner, MD and Elizabeth Tolley, PhD.

Anyone interested in participating in the Psoriasis research study should call the UTHSC Preventive Medicine Recruitment Department at (901) 448-8400 or 1-800-916-2606 to determine eligibility.

As the flagship statewide academic health system, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is focused on a four-tier mission of education, research, patient care and community service, all in support of a single goal: to improve the health of Tennesseans. Offering a broad range of postgraduate training opportunities, the main campus, which includes six colleges, is located in Memphis. UTHSC has additional College of Medicine campus locations in Knoxville and Chattanooga. For more information, visit www.utmem.edu

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