Clinical Trials at Stanford

We currently have 3 clinical trials open for enrollment. All studies are for patients with either primary PAH or PAH secondary to the scleroderma spectrum of disease. Patients will receive study medication and study related testing free of charge during the study period.

Simvastatin (Zocor®)

This is a Stanford-initiated, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of simvastatin in NYHA III/IV patients. Simvastatin is currently FDA-approved for the treatment of high cholesterol. The study lasts 12 weeks and involves 4 visits to Stanford. During the study, patients will have 3-6 minute walk tests.

HeartBar™ (l-arginine)

This study is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of HeartBar in patients with mild PAH. HeartBar is a nutritional supplement used to treat patients with PAH. During the study, patients involve 4 visits over 12 weeks. An open-label extension study may be available for patients who complete the 12 week study.

Mogen - BSF (208075)

This is a randomized, double-blind study of BSF (208075), a new selective endothelin receptor antagonist. During the study, patients will be randomized to BSF 1mg, 2.5mg, 5mg, or 10mg daily. The study lasts 16 weeks and involves 7 or 8 visits to Stanford. An open-label extension study may be available for patients who complete the 16 week study.

Please note that all studies exclude patients currently or previously on Flolan or PAH, secondary to the scleroderma spectrum of disease. Patients will receive study medication and study related testing free of charge during the study period.

Follow these tips for a stress-free summer trip:
1. Wear your MedicAlert bracelet.
2. Carry information on your condition and medications, in case you have to see an unfamiliar doctor.
3. Get the names of doctors in the area you are visiting who are experienced in handling PH, just in case.
4. In airports, carry a doctor’s letter on letterhead stationery explaining your Flolan pump; show your Gentile or Theracem card with a number to call with questions.
5. Bring your own oxygen is not allowed on airplanes, and some airlines do not provide oxygen - so be sure to research airlines carefully.
6. Your local oxygen provider should be able to help you with ordering and delivering oxygen to your destination.
7. Get all the recommended vaccinations for where you are going (not just the required ones); after checking with your doctor to make sure they won’t react with your meds.
8. Travel with a companion, if possible, who knows about PH, your meds, and your doctor’s name and number.
9. Get luggage you can manage yourself in a pinch; solid wheeled luggage is heavier, but it can carry other bags piggyback and also provide a place to sit.
11. Resolve not to let the inevitable delays, rudeness, and little problems upset you; stress can make PH worse.
12. Pack a minimum of food to last the trip including possible delays; pack pills in at least two places in case your bag is stolen or lost, and carry your name and phone number on them.
13. If you are going to be gone for a long time and take Flolan, your health service provider will usually ship some medicine to your destination.
14. Going through customs can be easier if you keep your meds in their regularly labeled pharmacy bottles.
15. At theme parks, a letter from your doctor stating it is unhealthy for you to stand in long lines will often get you a pass to the front of the line!
16. Going through customs is sometimes easier if you carry your meds in your carry-on luggage.
17. Keep a supply of medication on your person.
18. Pack enough medicine to last the trip including possible delays; pack pills in at least two places in case your bag is stolen or lost, and carry your name and phone number on them.
19. Carry information on your condition and medications, in case you have to see an unfamiliar doctor.
20. Get the names of doctors in the area you are visiting who are experienced in handling PH, just in case.
21. In airports, carry a doctor’s letter on letterhead stationery explaining your Flolan pump; show your Gentile or Theracem card with a number to call with questions.
22. Bring your own oxygen is not allowed on airplanes, and some airlines do not provide oxygen - so be sure to research airlines carefully.
23. Your local oxygen provider should be able to help you with ordering and delivering oxygen to your destination.
24. Get all the recommended vaccinations for where you are going (not just the required ones); after checking with your doctor to make sure they won’t react with your meds.
25. Travel with a companion, if possible, who knows about PH, your meds, and your doctor’s name and number.
26. Get luggage you can manage yourself in a pinch; solid wheeled luggage is heavier, but it can carry other bags piggyback and also provide a place to sit.
27. Pack light, eat light, and don’t get dehydrated.
28. Resolve not to let the inevitable delays, rudeness, and little problems upset you; stress can make PH worse.
29. Pack a minimum of food to last the trip including possible delays; pack pills in at least two places in case your bag is stolen or lost, and carry your name and phone number on them.
30. If you are going to be gone for a long time and take Flolan, your health service provider will usually ship some medicine to your destination.
31. Going through customs can be easier if you keep your meds in their regularly labeled pharmacy bottles.
32. At theme parks, a letter from your doctor stating it is unhealthy for you to stand in long lines will often get you a pass to the front of the line!