

LANGUAGE RECOVERY RESEARCH STUDY

Stroke Cognitive Outcomes and REcovery
(SCORE) Lab



If you have difficulty with
language after a recent
stroke, you may qualify to
participate in a research study
offering free therapy

This study was approved by the Johns Hopkins Institutional Review Board: IRB# IRB00203667
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03843463

ELISA

ESCITALOPRAM & LANGUAGE INTERVENTION FOR SUBACUTE APHASIA (ELISA)

STUDY OVERVIEW

We are conducting a research study to investigate if a drug called escitalopram can improve language therapy effectiveness in individuals with aphasia (language difficulties) within 3 months after a stroke.

Participants will be randomly selected to receive escitalopram (an FDA-approved drug for depression) or a placebo (an inactive material that does not contain any active study drug) while all participants with language difficulties will receive free computer-based speech therapy.

STUDY DURATION

Participants must enroll within 5 days of their stroke and will be in the main portion of the study for about 1 year, including follow-up testing.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE?

- Active study drug (escitalopram) or placebo
- Free computer-based speech therapy
- Reimbursement for travel and parking expenses
- Free language assessments



STUDY TIMELINE

- 01 Initial Screening & Enrollment

You will have an initial screening, which may include a picture of your brain called a magnetic resonance image (MRI) or a series of measurements taken using near-infrared light (NIRS). You must enroll and begin the research study within 5 days of your stroke.
- 02 Baseline Language Assessments

After enrolling, shortly after your stroke, you will perform various tasks to assess your language skills. These include tasks such as naming pictures and answering questions.
- 03 Random Assignment to Receive Study Drug or Placebo

Next, you will be randomly assigned (like a flip of a coin) to receive the study drug escitalopram or a placebo (an inactive material that does not contain any active study drug) to be taken for 3 months (90 days).
- 04 Computer-Based Speech Therapy

At around 2 months after your stroke, if you still have language problems caused by the stroke, you will receive 15 sessions of naming treatment over the course of 3-4 weeks. This is performed on a computer for 45-minute sessions. Sessions can be done at your home, at the hospital, or remotely. If you attend in person, we can provide compensation for certain travel and parking expenses.
- 05 Follow-Up Language Assessments

Upon completion of the computerized speech therapy program, you will undergo language assessments at 1 week, 5 weeks and 20 weeks following your final speech therapy session.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- 18 years old or older
- Stroke in the left side of your brain
- Right-handed
- Fluent in English
- Able to enroll within 5 days of your stroke

WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

This is a research project of the Stroke Cognitive Outcomes and Recovery (SCORE) Lab. We are a friendly team of Johns Hopkins University professionals working to understand the brain. A primary goal of our lab is to find novel therapies for speech-language difficulties also known as aphasia. To find out more about our lab, please visit our website: score.jhmi.edu

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact the principal investigator for more information:

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