Olmsted County Health Study

This study is a cross-sectional, population study of pain in Olmsted County. It will provide information that currently does not exist by linking a population survey with detailed medical record review and clinical test results. This linkage of information is unavailable in the existing medical literature and unique to the resources of the Rochester Epidemiology Project and Olmsted County. The study is split into 3 phases, with each phase informing the next.

Phase 1 consists of a mailed screener sent to 6000 randomly selected Olmsted County residents, with additional data gathered from electronic administrative data review. The sample size may be increased to 8000 Olmsted County adults if less than 200 people of the first 6000 report symptoms consistent with neuropathic pain.

Phase 2 gathers further information on chronic pain patients by a detailed telephone interview of 1300 pain sufferers, and medical record review of 700 subjects. In addition 200 persons without pain will be interviewed to provide control data. This will be addressed in a later IRB submission for Phase 2.

Phase 3 involves a brief clinical visit by 200 neuropathic pain patients and 100 control pain patients (mix of other pain conditions).