

Easing the Discomforts of Detox with Pioglitazone

What is the purpose of the study?

To see if the drug pioglitazone (pronounced “pie-oh-GLIT-a-zone”), which is currently approved to treat diabetes, can reduce withdrawal symptoms during buprenorphine taper

Who can participate in the study?

This study is accepting men and women who are:

- 18 to 65 years of age
- Physically dependent on heroin, pain pills, or other opiates and seeking to detox
- In generally good health

What will participants be asked to do?

The study lasts up to 10 weeks: this includes outpatient study visits and 18 days/nights on an inpatient unit

For research purposes, participants will:

- Provide urine samples 3 times a week
- Complete questionnaires
- Have blood samples taken by finger stick and drawn from a vein

Some participants can choose to:

- Have a brain scan MRI
- Have a sample of spinal fluid taken

Participants will receive

- Buprenorphine for 27 days total; the last 13 days of that will be a taper when the dose is reduced to zero.
- Pioglitazone or placebo (a pill with no drug in it) for 5 weeks with buprenorphine and then 2 weeks by itself (7 weeks total)
- Individual counseling once a week
- Help with transportation
- Help connecting with community services

Where is the study taking place?

The Archway Clinic, a part of the NIDA Intramural Research Program, located on the Johns Hopkins Bayview campus in East Baltimore.

Will there be any cost to participate?

There is no cost for participation.

Will I receive payment of some kind?

Participants receive gift cards for some research activities.

How can I find out if I'm eligible to participate?

Call 1-866-START NOW (1-866-782-7866) for a confidential screening.

study no.

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