

Genetics of Sporadic Keloids in African Americans

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Time frame of study: May 2013-ongoing
Time frame of participation: 1 visit
Number of participants needed: 225
Location of Study: Mount Sinai St. Luke's
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Summary:

Keloids are raised scars on the skin that follow minor injury. Keloids occur in people of all racial backgrounds but are particularly common among African Americans. Some families have multiple members with keloids, suggesting a possible genetic basis. We wish to come to a better understanding of keloids and we feel that identifying one or more genes that predispose to keloid formation might eventually improve treatment options in the future.

We are recruiting patients with keloids for a genetic study to compare with patients that have no personal or family history of abnormal scarring. We will obtain DNA from these individuals and carry out genetic testing.

If you decide to take part in this research study you will be responsible for attending one office visit, which will consist of completing a survey, having a blood sample drawn and having photographs taken.

Criteria for Participation:

- 18 years or older
- African American ancestry
- Have wound overflowing keloids on body (NOT including earlobes)

Benefits:

- Information gathered through this study may help to:
 - Increase understanding of genetic factors associated with keloids
 - Develop potential new treatments for keloids
 - Improve counselling of patients at risk of keloids