



## **AMC 038**

### **Pilot Trial of Valproic Acid in Patients with Kaposi's Sarcoma**

#### **Study Design**

The primary objectives of this study are to determine the safety of valproic acid in patients with Kaposi's sarcoma and to quantitatively evaluate the effects of valproic acid on HHV-8 gene expression using Real Time-PCR, specifically analyzing for gene expression as measured by T1.1 and lytic expression as measured by immunohistochemistry for K8 and ORF59. The secondary objectives are to evaluate the effects of valproic acid on HIV, KSHV, and EBV viral loads in plasma and in PBMCs and to evaluate clinical response to valproic acid. The drug that will be used for this research study will be an initial dose of valproic acid 250-mg by mouth twice a day. After 2 days the dose will be increased to one capsule in the morning and two in the evening. After two more days, the dose will be increased to 2 capsules in the morning and 2 in the evening. Patients will take valproic acid for 28 days and then taper until drug is discontinued. **Duration of the study:** 24 weeks.

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

- Men or women, 18 years of age or older with documented HIV infection. Histologically confirmed Kaposi's sarcoma, HIV related, not requiring systemic treatment (radiation or chemotherapy) less than 2 weeks before enrollment.
- Biopsy proven KS involving the skin and/or lymph nodes. Patients with symptomatic visceral disease are excluded. Participants who have slowly progressive or stable disease will be eligible for this study. Slow progression is defined as fewer than 5 new lesions per month.
- Laboratory results within study ranges (see Study Coordinator).
- All participants, male and female must practice birth control. Women cannot be pregnant.
- Participants receiving antiretroviral therapy should be on a stable regimen for at least 4 weeks prior to study entry. Patients may receive any FDA approved antiretroviral therapy or agents available through a treatment IND, except regimens using zidovudine (AZT) OR not on antiretroviral therapy currently. Participants may begin or change antiviral regimens after valproic acid treatment has been completed.

#### **Exclusion Criteria**

- Concurrent, acute, active opportunistic infection within 14 days of enrollment.
- Visceral Kaposi's sarcoma OR oral Kaposi's sarcoma as only site of disease.
- Concurrent neoplasm requiring cytotoxic therapy OR anti-neoplastic treatment for Kaposi's sarcoma (including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, local therapy, biological therapy, or investigational therapy) within two weeks of study entry. Previous local therapy of any KS-indicator lesion within 60 days, unless the lesion has clearly progressed since treatment.
- Use of investigational agents other than antiretroviral drugs available under expanded access or compassionate use protocols and patients with a history of valproic acid or valproate use in the previous year.
- Evidence of prior MI or cardiac ischemia or a history of lipodystrophy or hypercholesterolemia secondary to retroviral treatment.

#### **Principal Investigator**

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**For more information, please call (310) 825-3594**