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Multiple Sclerosis Foundation Internet Newsletter

CAMPAIGN FOR TRIALS & RESEARCH OF LDN FOR MS

Low-dose Naltrexone (LDN) is a hot topic within the MS community.

Naltrexone, commercially available under the name ReVia, is a narcotic antagonist, meaning that it blocks the action of narcotics and alcohol in the body. It is given to heroin addicts to block the pleasurable effects of the drug.

In Scotland, which according to the National MS Society has one of the highest rates of MS in the world, patients pay their doctors for Naltrexone, while heroin addicts get the drug for free. This is because the drug has not yet been approved for treating MS.

Dr. Bob Lawrence, a Welsh General Practitioner, says he is supplying a total of 400 patients with Naltrexone. The dose of the drug taken by MS patients, he says, is so small that it has "no significant toxicity at all."

Individuals with MS who have taken LDN report improvements in spasticity and fatigue, as well as a decrease in disease progression and exacerbations. However, there is an acute absence of formal clinical trials of LDN in MS. So far, all data concerning LDN and MS is purely anecdotal.

Clinical trials are needed to determine efficacy, safety, and tolerability of LDN for MS.

Three women with MS who are currently taking LDN or are currently on a waiting list for the drug, Lorna McDevitt from Scotland, Linda Elsegood from Britain, and Edwina Dennehy from the Republic of Ireland, launched a petition campaigning for research and clinical trials for LDN. The online petition has already received over 3,000 signatures. For more information, or to sign the petition, visit <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/110785607>