

Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois' Commitment to Research!

Submitted By:
Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois
 * Springfield * Decatur
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Since its inception in 2011, the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois has become recognized a premiere podiatry clinic. Led by its founder Dr. John M. Sigle and a medical team of advanced surgeons, the clinic uses state of the art equipment and innovative treatments to provide the most comprehensive foot and ankle care in central Illinois.

According to Dr. John M. Sigle, "Medicine is constantly evolving and we always use scientifically backed treatments to improve patient outcomes. In a small but very active way, we are also helping medicine evolve because of our involvement and commitment to clinical research. We formed **Midwest Clinical Research** to be at the forefront of medical advancements. Sometimes we are able to offer patients new treatments and products years before they are adopted by other medical practitioners. We have been involved in clinical research trials for six years now and have eight active trials. We are committed to the evolution of medicine."

New Clinical Bunion Trial

In a recent interview with long-time local radio personality Sam Madonia on WFMB-AM, Dr. Sigle announced that his clinic is involved in an exciting new bunionectomy trial to evaluate an investigational pain medication for post-surgical bunion removal. Bunion removal is provided at no-cost to qualified patients.

Dr. Sigle explained that bunions are one of the most

common foot disorders that affect about a third of the adults in the United States. "Bunions can be painful. Many people are discouraged and put off having surgery because of they are afraid of surgery and post-surgery pain," said Dr. Sigle.

According to Dr. Sigle, "Bunion surgery is actually the gold standard procedure for most pain trials. The trial we are involved in, is testing a long-acting anesthetic to determine its efficacy during the first three days after surgery when patients experience the greatest pain."

The best part of this trial is that instead of patients paying for surgery, they are reimbursed \$875. There are no surgeon fees, no anesthesia fees, and no hospital fees. Patients also receive seventy-two (72) hours of care at a Five- Star Post-Surgical Short-Term Rehab Facility in Springfield, IL.

According to Dr. Sigle, "Under most circumstances, patients are sent home after surgery and have to take care of themselves. These days, surgery is typically done on an outpatient basis. With this particular trial, we are actually able to provide the patient with post-op care where an RN takes care of all their needs for three days after surgery. During their stay, we are able to monitor and document pain levels for the clinical trial. Professional post-op care also helps ensure a smooth transition for our patients."

This particular trial is in the final phase of research. New medicine may be released on the market for worldwide use by this time next year if results are positive and final approvals are granted.

How to qualify for the bunion trials

Minimal qualifications require patients to be between ages 18 to 75, have never had surgery on the foot, have no history of chronic painful conditions, or be taking certain medications. Other conditions are reviewed with a research coordinator to determine eligibility.

Who to contact

According to Dr. Sigle, "We are currently enrolling patients into the trial but enrollment is not too terribly long, so we are in the race to the finish. If someone is interested, they should call as soon as possible before enrollment is closed. Interested individuals can call the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois at 217-787-2700 to schedule a prescreening teleconference.

Simple Six-Step Process

Surgery is done on Fridays and patients are discharged on Monday. Surgery and post op care are completed over a weekend so they don't interfere with work. Most people are able to walk on the same day of surgery and return to work on a limited basis while they recover.

The process is simple. It includes a six-step process that takes about two months. Here is a summary of the process:

Step 1. Telephone Prescreening Conference

A 15-20-minute prescreening telephone conference with Dr. Sigle or a research coordinator is required to determine if you are prequalified for an on-site screening.

Step 2. On-Site Screening

A one-two hour on-site screening conference with a research coordinator is necessary to complete a more comprehensive review of your medical history, confirm health conditions and medications, identify possible contraindications, explain terms of the trial, review risks, obtain consent forms, and take a blood draw to determine if you are qualified for surgery.

Step 3. Surgery

Surgery is scheduled at the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois for qualified applicants on a Friday within 28 days following the screening visit.

Step 4. Transit and Post Surgical Care

Transportation is provided at no cost for the patient immediately following surgery to the Short-Term Rehab Facility in Springfield, for post-surgical care and monitoring.

Step 5. Follow Up Visit, Day 7

A blood draw is completed and the patient is examined by a physician and research coordinator.

Step 6. Follow Up Visit, Day 30

A blood draw is completed and the patient is examined by a physician and research coordinator.

According to Dr. Sigle, "The overall process is pretty simple. Patients are reimbursed for the trial after the final visit." If you or a loved one or friend are considering bunion removal surgery, a no cost clinical trial may be right for you! For more information call 217-787-2700 or visit myfootandanklecenter.com.

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