



What is the study's title?	Focal Cerebral Arteriopathy Steroid (FOCAS) Trial
What is the study's purpose and why is it important?	This study will help us learn when the best time to treat children and adolescents who may have focal cerebral arteriopathy (FCA). Focal cerebral arteriopathy is a disease that causes blood vessels in the brain of a child or adolescent to get inflamed and narrowed. This can cause a stroke. Doctors already use steroids to treat FCA and prevent stroke, but we do not know when the best time is to start the steroid treatment.
Who can take part?	Children and adolescents that may have focal cerebral arteriopathy (FCA).
What will participants be asked to do?	<p>If your child joins the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will last 6 to 12 months. • They will be randomly assigned to either of the 2 treatment options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option A: the “just in case” approach: Start steroids as soon as their doctor <i>thinks</i> they may have FCA ○ Option B: the “wait and see” approach: Start steroids as soon as their doctor <i>knows</i> they have FCA • They will complete activities while they are in the hospital and after their stay. <p>While your child is in the hospital:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will get the same care they normally would. This includes taking aspirin to prevent a stroke. • They will have a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) to take pictures of their brain ○ MRA (magnetic resonance angiography) to take pictures of the blood vessels in their brain • We will collect the below samples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blood sample ○ Spinal fluid sample (if your child has a spinal tap to collect spinal fluid) • We will interview you and ask questions about your child’s medical history and any steroid side effects. <p>They will have follow-up visits at 1 month, 6 months, and 12 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 1-month follow-up visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your child will have another blood draw and another MRI and MRA scan. ○ We will ask questions about your child’s health. ○ We will ask you questions about how your child feels if they take a steroid. ○ If your child has already been discharged, your child will come back to the hospital for this visit. • At the 6- and 12-month follow up visits, we will ask questions about your child’s health and any steroid side effects. These visits can be in-person or virtual. The 12-month visit is optional.
Will participants be paid?	Compensation will be available to help cover the costs of your time and travel.