

Section 3: Non-technical Abstract

New treatments are needed for patients who are diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). MDS is a disease of bone marrow and blood cells which can lead to low blood counts and in some cases progress to leukemia. Current treatments for MDS either don't treat all forms of the disease or cannot be tolerated by many patients, especially the elderly. This trial was designed to study whether or not vaccination with the K562/GM-CSF Vaccine can make the patient's immune system recognize the diseased cells and mount a response that will ultimately improve bone marrow function. Patients on this study will be vaccinated 5 times with this vaccine. The first 4 doses are administered at a frequency of 1 vaccination a week, every 3 weeks. After those 12 weeks' of treatment have been completed, the fifth and final vaccine is given 8 weeks later. The effects of the vaccine on the immune system and the safety of using vaccination treatment in this disease will be studied in detail.