

## **Down syndrome –Treatment with Piracetam**

Piracetam is a psychoactive drug that some believe may improve cognitive function. The National Down Syndrome Society **does not** recommend the use of Piracetam because of the lack of approval by the Food and Drug Administration and because a study on the use of Piracetam in children with Down syndrome found that Piracetam therapy did not enhance cognition or behavior and was associated with adverse effects. Results of the study were published by Dr. Nancy J. Lobaugh in the April 2001 issue of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*.

Although there are informal anecdotal reports of improvement in cognitive performance after the use of Piracetam, scientific studies to date have not found Piracetam to be effective. Without proof of effectiveness and because adverse side effects were found, NDSS does not recommend the use of Piracetam in individuals with Down syndrome.