AIRWAY INFLAMMATION IN ASTHMA

Research Team Contacts

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Please contact the researcher team members to have any questions answered or if you require further information about the project.

What is the purpose of the research?

This project is being undertaken as part of the asthma research programme directed by Dr. Solomon at QUT. The purpose of this project is to investigate how specific genes, proteins, and cells, control inflammation in the airways of people with asthma. The research team requests your assistance because you have asthma, and are otherwise healthy.

Who is funding this research?

The project is funded by the Asthma Foundation of Queensland. The funding body will not have access to personally identifying information about you that may be obtained during the project.

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team is looking for people with asthma between the ages of 18 and 50 who are otherwise healthy, non-smokers, and not pregnant or breast feeding.

What will you ask me to do?

Your participation in this project is voluntary. If you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from participation at any time during the project without comment or penalty. Your decision to participate, or not, will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT. Your participation will involve three testing sessions, throughout a period of at least one week, each of one hour duration. Prior to the testing sessions you will need to abstain from certain asthma and other medications (unless you need to take these). During the testing sessions you will be required to complete:

Medical Health Questionnaire: (first session only) You will complete a medical health questionnaire to determine your medical health status.

Breathing Tests: You will exhale forcefully through a tube to measure the volume and flow of air in your lungs. You will do this before and after taking a bronchodilator medication and during the sputum sampling.

Bronchodilator Medication: You will take a bronchodilator medication (non-prescription asthma puffer) to assess your airways and for safety.

Sputum Sampling: You will inhale a saline (salty water) mist for 20 minutes and periodically cough up sputum into a container to collect cells and fluid from your airways.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

Breathing Tests: Whilst performing the breathing test you could feel light-headed. For your safety you will be seated during the test.

Bronchodilator Medication: The bronchodilator medication could give you a headache, nausea, shaking or tense feeling, irregular or fast heart beat, warm feeling, irritated throat or mouth, or rarely muscle cramps or decreased blood potassium. The medication is a commonly used non-prescription medication.

Sputum Sampling: During the sputum sampling procedure you could cough involuntarily, or could have a salty taste in your mouth, or experience some constriction in your lungs. To minimise any constriction in your lungs you will be given the bronchodilator medication before, and if necessary, after the procedure.

You will be monitored throughout the testing session.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

It is not expected that this project will benefit you directly. However, it will add to our understanding of asthma.

Will I be compensated for my time?

To compensate you for your contribution you will receive a $20 voucher per visit, and any transport costs associated.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Matthew Hadaway by email: m.hadaway@student.qut.edu.au, or phone: 3138 6250. You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.