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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (PATIENTS OVER THE AGE OF 18) 17th November 2015 Version 4

IgG4 systemic disease

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it if you wish with family and friends. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

Recently, a disease known as “IgG4 systemic disease” has been described. IgG4 is a specific type of antibody that is found in all people, and is part of the immune system. In this disease IgG4 affects different organs in the body such as the pancreas, liver and kidneys, and is associated with organ scarring and malfunction. In some people, systemic IgG4 disease is also associated with high levels of IgG4 in the blood. Diagnosing and understanding this disease is important so that the correct treatment may be given. Often people improve with a course of steroid treatment but we do not yet know what happens to people when steroids are stopped. A recent report has suggested that IgG4 systemic disease may be associated with a bacteria infection in the stomach called helicobacter pylori.

Not everybody with high levels of IgG4 in the blood has IgG4 systemic disease. Elevated levels of IgG4 can be caused by many other things such as bee stings, allergy treatments, and blistering skin diseases. If you have elevated levels of IgG4 this does not mean that you have, or that you will develop a disease.

Currently we do not understand what happens to people with IgG4 systemic disease over time, or why IgG4 levels are high. Other people may have high levels of blood IgG4 that are not associated with IgG4 systemic disease.

In this study we wish to see what happens to people that have IgG4 systemic disease over time and to assess the immune response to further understand why IgG4 levels are high, and what role these play in the disease process. We wish to study people with IgG4 systemic disease, and compare these to people with high blood levels of IgG4 without IgG4 systemic disease, patients with diseases that may mimic IgG4 disease, and healthy individuals.

The aims of the study are to establish a database of people with IgG4 systemic disease and assess the nature of the disease and response to treatment over time. We also hope to understand more about the reason why cells are making IgG4 and why these cause disease in some people but not in others.

Why have I been invited?

We are asking you to participate as someone who has been found to have high levels of IgG4 in blood or tissue, or because you have another condition that is known to be associated with, or to mimic IgG4 systemic disease. The fact that you have been chosen does not necessarily mean that you have or that you will develop IgG4 systemic disease.

In total we are hoping to recruit 200 people with IgG4 disease, 50 people with high levels of IgG4 in the blood, 200 people with conditions that may mimic IgG4 disease and 100 volunteers with no disease and normal IgG4 levels. We also aim to recruit 50 children, aged 10 to 18 years, with diseases that mimic IgG4 disease; this includes primary sclerosing cholangitis, autoimmune hepatitis, inflammatory bowel disease and pancreatitis, among others.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be given or sent this patient information sheet in advance. If you wish to participate we will ask you to contact us and we will arrange to meet you at your local participating hospital. At this visit we will answer any questions. If you decide to take part we will ask you to sign a consent form. We will then follow and record your progress and your treatment over time and include you in a database of IgG4 research subjects. To do this we will request access to your medical notes. If we cannot find the information we need in your medical notes, we may telephone you to ask for it. If you cannot provide the information, we may ask your permission to call your GP. We will try to call you as infrequently as possible, to avoid causing you too much inconvenience. If you do not wish to be contacted by telephone, please indicate this on your consent form.

We will also ask you for a blood sample (up to 100 ml – 20 teaspoons) so that we can assess your immune system further. We may also take some blood (6 ml – just over 1 teaspoon) to see if you have been infected with a bacterium in the stomach called helicobacter pylori, as this has been associated with IgG4 systemic disease. If we find that you have high levels of IgG4 in your blood we will ask a doctor to contact you. If we find that you do have helicobacter infection we may suggest that you have treatment, which would consist of a short course of antibiotics.

Depending on the results we may ask you to give further blood samples, up to a maximum of four times a year. If you are unable to come into hospital to give a blood sample, we may ask a research nurse to visit you at home, at a time that is convenient to you. If you do not wish to be visited at home, you can still continue to be part of the study, and your medical care will not be affected. If you are receiving treatment then we will ask for a blood sample before, during and after treatment. We will ask to see you annually thereafter where we will take a history and a blood sample. If you have had previous tests and have stored tissue we will ask if we may look at this tissue to assess IgG4 levels.

How long is the study?

We would like to see you at least once a year for your lifetime. However, you can leave the study at any time, for any reason, without any effects on your future medical care and without being obliged to give a reason for your decision to withdraw from the study.

What will happen to my samples?

Your blood will be used to assess your immune response further to try to understand further why levels of IgG4 are high in some people. Some blood or blood cells will be frozen down to use in this project in the future. Genetic tests may be performed only to answer questions about IgG4 disease. All your samples will be labelled with a number rather than your name, so that research staff and investigators in the laboratory will not be able to identify you.

If you have had previous tissue samples taken, for example, liver, colon and kidney biopsies, we would like to use these to look to see if they have IgG4 in them, or perform other tests that are relevant to the diagnosis of IgG4 systemic disease. These will be returned to storage after use.

If necessary to achieve the aims of this study, and if you consent, your samples and data may also be used anonymously in additional studies with aims similar to this study. This would only take place if the principal investigator approves additional studies as having aims that would be beneficial in improving our understanding of what happens to people with IgG4 systemic disease or why IgG4 levels are sometimes high.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

The only procedure will be blood tests. These may be associated with bruising. It may be that we make a diagnosis of IgG4 systemic disease. If this happens we will inform your doctor who may refer you for appropriate treatment.

What are the benefits of taking part?

The information we obtain may not be of direct benefit to you but it will help us to understand this disease. You will be tested for helicobacter pylori-the doctor who usually looks after you will be informed and you may be offered treatment if this is present.

Will my GP be informed about this study?

We will, with your permission, inform your GP that you are taking part in this study. Your physician (GP or hospital doctor) would be informed about any results if they have implications for your health or health care.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You can leave the study at any time, for any reason, without any effects on your future medical care and without being obliged to give a reason for your decision to withdraw from the study. Should this happen, we will destroy the research samples or continue to use them and data about you, depending on your preference. In the unlikely event that you lose the ability to give consent during the study, data or tissue/blood already collected with consent would be retained and used in the study.

What if there is a problem?

The University of Oxford has appropriate insurance-related arrangements in place in respect of the University's role as Research Sponsor of this study. If you wish to complain about any aspect of the way in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, you can either contact Dr. Ellie Barnes (01865 220077) directly or contact the University of Oxford Clinical Trials and Research Governance office on 01865 572224.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Your data and blood samples will be collected by clinical researchers and anonymised which means that it will be coded and only the study investigators will have access to the code. All the investigators have a duty of confidentiality towards you. Your research records may be inspected by University staff for audit purposes to ensure that researchers are following good research practice guidelines. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant. All study data will be stored for twenty years and then disposed of securely unless we obtain further ethical committee approval to use it in a subsequent study. Data will be kept on a secure, password protected computer with restricted access in a locked room and also kept on an online web portal.

The web portal is highly encrypted. Access to the IgG4RD web portal will be restricted, with only authorised site-specific personnel able to make entries or amendments to their patients' data.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust IM&T (Information Management and Technology) determine how access is granted from external sites. This involves allowing traffic from a specific IP address through the network firewall, or use of a VPN client. The connection the database is secured with the HTTPS protocol.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

We hope to publish the results of the study in the scientific literature. You will not be identified in the publication. We will be happy to send you a summary of the results of the study if you wish.

Who is funding the research?

The Medical research Council and Wellcome trust are funding the study investigators and the research is being sponsored and organised by the University of Oxford. No payment is made to either the doctors conducting the research or the hospitals where this research is carried out if you were to decide to help with the study.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research in the NHS is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee to protect your safety, rights, well-being and dignity. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the Oxfordshire Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Professor Ellie Barnes (tel: 01865-220077 or ellie.barnes@ndm.ox.ac.uk) or Jonathan Lau (jonathan.lau@ndm.ox.ac.uk)