

PARENTS' INFORMATION SHEET

MeDALL

Skin allergy test

What will happen to my child if they have a skin allergy test?

If you decide to allow your child to have the skin allergy test, you will be asked to sign the consent form.

Once you have signed the consent form for your child we will test whether your child is sensitive to common irritants such as dog, cat, house and dust mite, using a skin prick test.

1. Several drops of clear liquid will be placed on the inside of your child's forearm.
2. One of the drops will contain histamine, this will cause the skin to become red and raised, like a nettle sting.
3. Another drop will be salt water which your child should not have any reaction to.
4. The other drops will contain the irritants we are testing such as house dust mite, cat and dog hair and pollen
5. A number will be written with a ball point pen next to each drop.
6. Next the research administrator will prick the skin gently through each drop using a small needle. This allows the drops to pass into the skin but will not cause any bleeding.
7. If your child is sensitive to any of the irritants the skin at that point will appear red and slightly raised.
8. After about 15 minutes the nurse will measure the area that is red. If it is 3mm or more in diameter your child is considered to have a positive reaction to that irritant.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

Your child may feel a slight scratch when the skin is pricked. This will be done very gently so it is unlikely to hurt. The weal caused by the histamine and by the other irritants, if your child is sensitive to them, may itch for a while but this should wear off after about one hour.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We will inform you and your GP of the results of your child's skin allergy test. If your child has a positive reaction to an irritant this does not necessarily mean that they will have obvious symptoms of allergy in the future.

The information we collect will help us to understand how the immune system develops and why some children get asthma and eczema. This will help many children in the future.

What will happen to the information we collect?

The information collected for this study will be stored in strict confidence, as is required by the Data Protection Act. Each child will be given a study number, no names will be used, so the information will be anonymous.

How will I find out the results of the study?

We will make sure that those taking part will hear about the results through the BiB newsletter and Children's Centre groups. None of the publications or presentations will identify individual participants.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is co-ordinated by Dagmar Waiblinger at the Born in Bradford project. If you have any questions about the project or just want to know more about the work we are conducting please contact the Born in Bradford office on 01274 36383317. We will answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

We hope you are happy to take part.