



Botnar Research Centre, Windmill Road, OX3 7LD

Tel: +44(0)1865 737882

Chief Investigator: Dr James Fullerton, [james.fullerton@ndorms.ox.ac.uk](mailto:james.fullerton@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Co-investigator: Dr Philip Drennan, [philip.drennan@ndorms.ox.ac.uk](mailto:philip.drennan@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### Varying Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin-adjuvant dose combinations to explore the immune response: a human challenge study

We'd like to invite you to take part in our research study. Before you decide, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read this information, and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information, please ask us.

First, we want to introduce you to the study and key facts. Then we will go through the study in more detail. There will be time for you to ask us any questions, and to discuss your participation with friends, relatives, and your General Practitioner (GP), if you wish. **Taking part in this study is entirely your choice.**

You will be compensated up to £400 for your time, travel, and inconvenience.

Could I be eligible to take part?	
✓ You must	✗ You must not
Be aged 18-45 years old	Have any significant medical conditions
Be in good health	Be a current smoker, including vaping
Be willing to travel to our research facility in Oxford for a screening visit, and six study visits over 30 days	

## **If you decide to join our study:**

1. You will be given injections of keyhole limpet haemocyanin (KLH; trade name: Immucothel) into the muscle or skin, on up to two occasions, with or without a medicine ('adjuvant') which helps the immune response (either aluminium hydroxide or Montanide ISA-51). All these products are used clinically and are manufactured to the standard of medicines.
2. You will have to attend a screening visit, where we will ask questions about your health, perform a physical examination, and take a blood sample. If you are eligible based on the screening assessment and decide to take part, you will have to attend the research facility on a further 6 occasions over 30 days, for about an hour per visit (about 2 hours for the final visit).
3. You will be closely monitored by the study team with a range of tests and procedures, including questionnaires, physical examinations, blood tests, skin imaging using Laser Doppler Imagers, and ultrasound of the lymph nodes in your armpit.
4. On the final visit we will take a tiny sample of skin (punch skin biopsy) from up to three areas on your forearm, using local anaesthetic.
5. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any time you wish.

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Why are we doing this study? .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Why have I been invited?.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Are there any advantages to taking part? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Do I have to take part? .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Can I take part?.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>What will happen to me if I decide to take part?.....</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1.	Pre-screening.....	8
7.2.	Screening phase .....	8
7.3.	Study phase.....	10
7.4.	Study visit 1 (day 0) .....	10
7.5.	Study visits 2-4 (days 7, 14, 21) .....	12
7.6.	Study visit 5 (day 28) .....	12
7.7.	Study visit 6 (day 30) .....	13
<b>8.</b>	<b>What are my responsibilities? .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Are there any possible disadvantages or risks from taking part? .....</b>	<b>16</b>
9.1.	Potential risks of the challenge agents .....	16
9.2.	Potential risks of tests performed as part of the study .....	17
<b>10.</b>	<b>Will my General Practitioner (GP) be informed of my participation? .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential? .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Will I be reimbursed for taking part?.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>What will happen to the samples I give? .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>What will happen to my data? .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study? .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>What happens at the end of the study? .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>What if we find something unexpected? .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>What if there is a problem? .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Who is organising and funding the study?.....</b>	<b>20</b>

20. Who has reviewed the study? .....	21
21. Participation in future research: .....	21
22. Further information and contact details:.....	21

## 1. Introduction

Faulty regulation of the immune system contributes to multiple diseases including inflammatory arthritis, cardiovascular disease and cancer, and therefore represents a leading cause of disability and death worldwide. Whilst there have been revolutionary advances in our understanding of how to use drugs to treat abnormal immune responses, there remains huge unmet need for new, better medicines. Unfortunately, as many as 9 in every 10 promising drugs studied in humans ultimately do not succeed in becoming clinical treatments. A significant cause of failure is when information gained in the laboratory or in animal studies does not hold true when the drug is given to humans.

## 2. Why are we doing this study?

One approach to improve the efficiency of the drug development process is the use of human 'immune challenge' studies. In these studies, healthy volunteers are given small amounts of substances which are foreign to their immune system to provoke a temporary response: the 'challenge'. Depending on the nature and dose of the challenge, the body's immune system will react in a different but predictable way, elements of which mimic those seen in disease, thereby 'modelling' them. These models can help safely bridge the gap between animal experiments and people with disease, allowing us to test the effect of new drugs safely without exposing patients to risk. Sadly, whilst immune challenge models have been used in drug development for many years, this has been done in an *ad hoc* manner, which greatly limits the usefulness of the approach.

The purpose of this research is to better understand, improve, and standardise a common method of immune challenge which uses a protein called 'Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin' (KLH). KLH is available as a highly-purified formulation, and because it is not usually encountered by the human immune system (it is derived from an inedible shellfish), it allows us to study the development of immune responses right from the time it is administered. We plan to give different groups of healthy volunteers different doses of KLH with or without an 'immune-boosting' agent (Alhydrogel™ or Montanide ISA™51, commonly referred to as adjuvants), before measuring and comparing their response. We will then re-challenge all the volunteers a month later with different doses of KLH in the skin on their forearms, similar to an allergy test, taking images, blood samples and skin biopsies to understand the nature, time course, and variability of the immune response in each individual. The results will help us to select the best doses of KLH to model different diseases and test drugs with. In turn, this will allow earlier and better evaluation of new therapeutics.

## 3. Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you are aged 18-45 years, are healthy, take no regular medications affecting the immune system, have mark-free forearms (no skin damage, tattoos or scars on the hairless part of either arm) and have a lighter

skin tone (Fitzpatrick scale I-IV, pale to moderate brown). The latter is to avoid interference with assessment of the skin response. If you tell us you are healthy, don't take any regular medications and don't smoke, then you can participate.

#### **4. Are there any advantages to taking part?**

You will not gain any direct benefit from the study. We hope that the information we gather from this and future studies will help us to develop new treatments for diseases caused by, or affecting the immune system.

#### **5. Do I have to take part?**

- No, taking part is entirely your choice.
- You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

#### **6. Can I take part?**

To take part in the study, ALL of the following must apply to you:

- Be willing and able to give informed consent for participation in the study and able to comply with the study protocol.
- Be aged between 18 and 45 years of age inclusive, at the time of signing the informed consent.
- Be healthy, based on a detailed medical history and a complete physical examination including vital signs and laboratory measurements.
- Have a body weight greater  $\geq 50$  kg, and body mass index (BMI) within the range 18 to 30 kilogram/meter squared (inclusive).
- If female, be of non-child bearing potential or if female and of child bearing potential not be pregnant (negative pregnancy test on the day of both screening and vaccination) and willing to use effective methods of contraception to prevent pregnancy from the time of first dose to 60 days afterwards. This should include two methods of contraception simultaneously (e.g. condoms and the oral contraceptive pill).
- If male and with a female partner of child-bearing potential, agree to use effective methods of contraception from the time of the first dose of challenge agent to 60 days afterwards.
- Have received at least two doses of a registered Covid-19 vaccine at least two months previously at study commencement
- Have sufficient English language ability to enable appropriate informed consent procedures to be conducted in English

You CANNOT participate if any of the below exclusion criteria apply to you:

- Have had antibiotics or antiviral therapy after a serious illness within 30 days of study entry.
- SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) infection within the previous 30 days, diagnosed using PCR test or lateral flow device

- Have any use of immunosuppressant or immunomodulatory agents (systemic or topical) in 3 months prior to study entry.
- Have chronic medical conditions with potential effect on immune responses including diabetes, significant history of atopy, or any condition that, in the opinion of the investigator, would interfere with the study
- Have any tattoos, naevi or other skin abnormalities such as keloids (or history of keloids) that may, in the opinion of the investigator, interfere with study assessments.
- Have Fitzpatrick skin type V and VI (due to potential interference with assessment of skin re-challenge response)
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Have an allergy to KLH, aluminium hydroxide, Montanide ISA-51, related vaccine adjuvants, or components of the study challenge agents
- Have an allergy to shellfish
- Have resided in or have significant previous travel to areas endemic for schistosomiasis (due to potential cross-reactive immune responses to KLH)
- Have previous exposure to Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin, e.g. in the context of a previous study
- Participate, within 7 days of screening, in recreational sun-bathing, or use of sun-bed, on the area of the skin from wrist to shoulder inclusive.
- Have a phobia of needles or minor surgical procedures.
- Are a current smoker (including vaping) or using nicotine replacement therapy
- Have received any vaccinations within 2 months prior to screening visit, or will require vaccination prior to the end of study follow-up
- Have any other significant disease, disorder, or finding, which, in the opinion of the investigator, may either put you at risk, affect your ability to participate in the study or impair interpretation of the study data

## 7. What will happen to me if I decide to take part?

We will randomly assign you to one of 7 different groups using a computerised process, similar to flipping a coin. Each group will receive slightly different study regimens, with an intramuscular (IM) injection of KLH or placebo (saline), with or without an adjuvant, into the deltoid muscle of the shoulder on day 0 of the study (see Table 1). On day 28 of the study participants in all groups will be given 6 injections into the skin ('intradermal') of the forearms with different doses of KLH or saline.

Table 1: Study Groups

Group	Treatment – Day 0	Treatment – Day 28
Group 1	IM saline 0.9% (placebo)	All groups:

Group 2	IM dose KLH 1000 mcg	Intradermal KLH: 0 mcg (saline), 1 mcg, 3 mcg, 10mcg, 30mcg, and 100mcg
Group 3	IM dose KLH 1000 mcg plus aluminium hydroxide 900mcg	
Group 4	IM dose KLH 1000 mcg plus Montanide ISA-51	
Group 5	IM dose KLH 10 mcg	
Group 6	IM dose KLH 10 mcg plus aluminium hydroxide 900mcg	
Group 7	IM dose KLH 10 mcg plus Montanide ISA-51	

### 7.1. Pre-screening

You may have already completed pre-screening if you are reading this information sheet. Pre-screening involves a brief (~15 minute) meeting, phone call, or video call to give some preliminary information and to register your details. Additionally, there will be a few brief questions to check you are eligible for the study, which will include questions about your medical history.

If you decide that you might like to take part, a member of the study team will ensure you have a copy of this document to keep (the 'Participant Information Sheet')—we can give you a paper copy, or send it to you via email. We will go through this document in detail, to ensure you understand what to expect if you decide to take part, the risks involved, and what side-effects you might experience. You will receive full and comprehensive answers to any questions you might have. After this appointment you will have time to think about this study, and we encourage you to discuss with friends, family, and GP if you wish. If you have any additional questions at this stage you will be encouraged to contact us by phone or email to discuss them.

### 7.2. Screening phase

If you are eligible, and if you decide that you would like to proceed, a member of the study team will arrange a visit to the research facility for a physical examination, and blood tests. Face to face visits will take place at one of two locations, either the Clinical Research Facility at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, or the Experimental Medicine Clinical Research Facility (EMCRF), based at the Churchill Hospital site. Both of these facilities are run by the University of Oxford. We will let you know where to go before your visit.

Upon arrival you will have the opportunity to ask any further questions and, once you are happy that you fully understand what the study involves and before anything else takes place, the study doctor will ask you to sign a consent form. You will be given a copy of the consent form to take away and keep.



The study doctor will then go through a few administrative questions as well as detailed questions about your health. This will be followed by a physical examination and blood tests to see if you are suitable for this study (see more details below). You should allow approximately 1 hour for this first screening visit, and it will occur up to 90 days prior to enrolment in the study. You will receive financial compensation for this visit. We will ask to see some form of ID, such as a driver's licence or passport.

### Medical examination and clinical observations

Medical examination of your skin, chest, abdomen, mouth and the lymph glands in your upper body will be performed. Your blood pressure, heart rate, and temperature will be recorded. We will record your weight and height. Additionally, for women of childbearing potential a urine pregnancy test will be performed.

### Blood tests

To check that you are suitable for the study and that it is safe to take part, we will take blood to test for anaemia (low red blood cells), problems with your immune system, and kidney function. In addition, we will do a test to determine your 'HLA type' which is a genetically determined (inherited) characteristic which can influence an individual's immune response. We will take approximately 10mL (two teaspoons) of blood. These tests will be performed by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

### What happens if any of the tests are abnormal?

Sometimes test results are outside the usual ranges for healthy individuals. Depending on the results, you may not be eligible for the study, and you may be advised to contact your GP for further tests or review. In some cases, the study doctor may simply recommend that the blood tests be rechecked on a later date, before deciding on eligibility. You will be compensated for this additional blood test on a pro-rata basis.

### Optional consent for further blood donation

At this visit you will be asked whether you would be happy to be contacted in the future to give further blood samples once the study is over (i.e. after the day 30 study visit), to better understand how the immune response to KLH changes over a longer period of time (up to 24 months). This is optional and does not oblige you to give a blood donation when contacted. If you do provide further blood donations, we will take up to 50mL of blood (approximately 3 tablespoons) per visit, and a maximum of 400mL (approximately two cups) in any 3 month period (similar to the limit used by the NHS blood and transplant service for regular blood

donors). You will be compensated for the time and inconvenience of providing these additional blood samples.

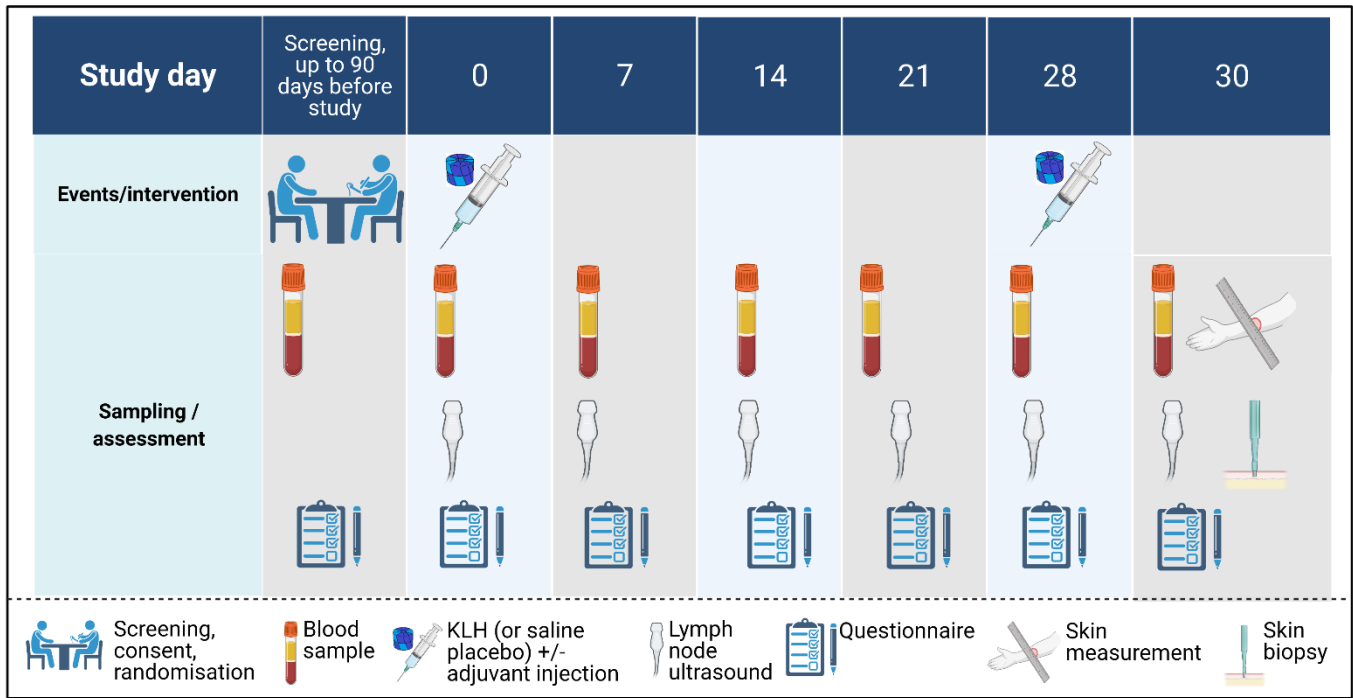
### What happens if I decide not to take part at this stage?

There is nothing else you need to do—taking part is entirely your choice. If you decide not to participate in the challenge part of the study, we might ask if you are willing to provide a one-off blood sample, to help us develop laboratory tests of the immune response, and compare the results of these tests with people who receive KLH in the study. This is optional, and you will be compensated for your time and inconvenience. In this circumstance we will not perform any other the study procedures detailed below, but we will ask if you are willing to be contacted in the future to provide further blood samples, or to see if you are interested in taking part in any future studies—this is also optional.

### 7.3. Study phase

If you consent to take part in the study, you will be invited to attend for 6 further in-person visits. Figure 1 shows the visits you will need to attend if you join the study. The details of these visits are described below.

Figure 1: Timeline of study procedures

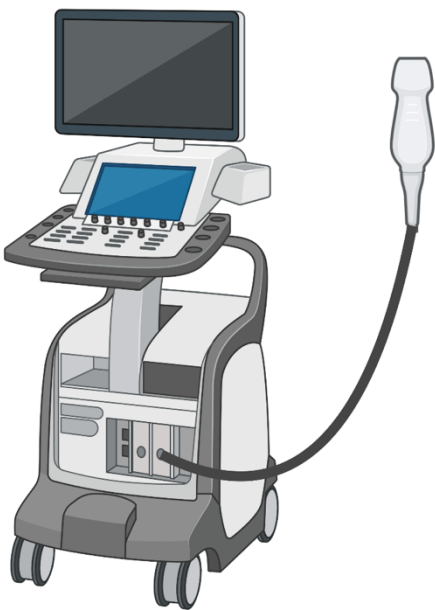


### Blood tests

We will take blood samples to measure the status of your immune system, as a baseline prior to the first injection of the challenge agent. We will also do tests for evidence of previous infections with viruses which very commonly infect people as children or in early adulthood (cytomegalovirus, and varicella), as these viruses may affect the immune response to KLH, or provide additional insight into the way your immune system reacts to infection/inflammation. The total volume of blood taken on this occasion will be approximately 80mL (about 5 tablespoons).

### Lymph node ultrasound

We will use an ultrasound machine to look at the lymph nodes in your axilla (armpits)—we use gel to help improve the ultrasound pictures. The ultrasound procedure is painless and harmless.



*Figure 1 Ultrasound machine*

### SARS CoV2 (COVID-19) Testing

We will administer a SARS CoV2 lateral flow test (nasal swab), to check for asymptomatic COVID-19 infection (we will provide this).

### KLH or placebo administration

Information Sheet V2.0 2022-07-27

Study title: Varying Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin-adjuvant dose combinations to explore the immune response: a human challenge study

IRAS Project number: 309002

Chief Investigator: James Fullerton

REC Reference number: 22/EE/0150

Prior to your arrival on day 0 you will have been randomly allocated to one of the 7 study groups (see table 1 above). We will not tell you which group you have been assigned to—this increases the scientific validity of the study. We will give you an injection into the deltoid muscle of the arm (see Figure ) with KLH or placebo, with or without adjuvant, according to your group assignment.



Figure 2: Site of first study injection

After the injection, we will ask you to wait at the study site for 20 minutes, to check you do not have a reaction to the injection (this is very unlikely).

### 7.5. Study visits 2-4 (days 7, 14, 21)

On days 7, 14, and 21 you will attend the study site. ***These visits will take approximately 30 minutes.*** If it is difficult for you to attend these visits we may be able to conduct them at a suitable alternative location. We will ask you questions about your current health, and any possible reactions to the study agents. We will ask questions about your current health and any possible reactions to the study agents. If necessary, we will do a brief physical examination or check your vital signs, e.g. if you have a skin reaction to the injection. We will perform a brief ultrasound to assess the lymph node reaction in the armpits and take a blood sample to measure the immune response to KLH. On these visits we will take approximately 56 mL (about 4 tablespoons) of blood.

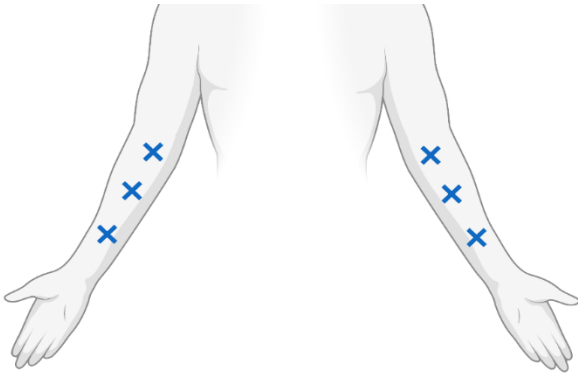
### 7.6. Study visit 5 (day 28)

On day 28, we will perform the assessments also performed on visits 2-4. ***This visit will take approximately one hour.*** We will also do a SARS CoV2 (lateral flow) test which we will provide. In addition, we will give a second series of injections:

### KLH re-challenge

We will give you a total of 6 small injections into the skin of the forearms, as shown in Figure . One of these injections will be saline, and the rest will be different doses of KLH. We will ask you to stay at the study site for a minimum of 20 minutes after the injections, to check you do not have a reaction to them.

Figure 3: Sites of KLH re-challenge injections



### 7.7. Study visit 6 (day 30)

On day 30, we will perform the assessments also performed on visits 2-4. In addition, we will assess the response to the injections given on day 28. ***This visit will take approximately 2 hours.***

#### Assessment of KLH re-challenge

We will measure the skin reaction to the injections using a ruler, and a special camera called a laser Doppler imager (LDI), which measures blood flow in the skin. You will be given a special set of glasses to wear while the LDI is being used to protect your eyes. We will also take photos of the skin reaction—these will be close up photos of the skin and will not include any identifiable detail.

#### Skin biopsy

We will take up to 3 samples of skin (a skin biopsy), using a special device called a punch biopsy. The skin will be taken from areas where you were given the saline injection, as well as two different doses of the KLH. To take the biopsy we will clean the skin with antiseptic, and then give an injection of local anaesthetic to minimise discomfort. The punch biopsy takes a tiny circular amount of skin (4-6mm in diameter, about the size of 2-3 grains of rice side by side). We will then close the skin with special plasters (steristrips), or a single dissolvable stitch, if necessary. We will then put a dressing over these biopsy sites, which can be left on until it falls off, or removed carefully after 48h.

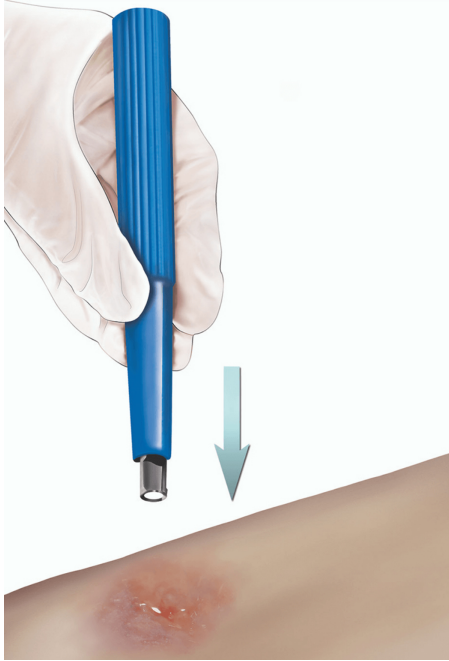


Figure 4 Punch skin biopsy procedure. From <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/surgery/punch-biopsy-of-a-skin-lesion>

After the biopsy you will be asked to keep the area dry for 48h, then you can bathe/swim normally. If a stitch has been used, this will dissolve and fall out on its own in about 10 days. If a steristrip is used, it should fall off by itself, or it can be removed by soaking and gently removing at after 10 days.

### Participant experience questionnaire

We will ask you about your experience in the study to date, e.g. how you found the study procedures, and whether you would volunteer for similar studies in the future, based on your experience in this study.

### End of the study

The study follow-up will end at the day 30 visit. You will have contact details for the study team in case there are any problems after this, such as any concern around the healing of the punch biopsy sites (this is very unlikely).

## **8. What are my responsibilities?**

It is important to consider whether you can commit to coming for all study visits, as far as possible.

If you take part in the study we will ask you to avoid the following activities, within 72h of primary and re-challenge KLH doses (or placebo):

- Sunbathing and use of sunbeds
- Contact sports, weight lifting, and any other moderate/high intensity exercise lasting >30 minutes

Information Sheet V2.0 2022-07-27

Study title: Varying Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin-adjuvant dose combinations to explore the immune response: a human challenge study

IRAS Project number: 309002

Chief Investigator: James Fullerton

REC Reference number: 22/EE/0150

- Consumption of more than 3 units of alcohol per day
- Smoking of tobacco or cannabis, or use of vapes
- Consumption of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antihistamines
- Use of topical creams, ointments, or gels containing corticosteroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Following the skin biopsy you will need to take care to not disturb the skin too much until the skin is healed.

We will ask you to inform us if you develop symptoms that may be consistent with COVID-19 infection (e.g. a high temperature, new continuous cough, and/or a change in sense of smell or taste). If these occur, we will ask you to arrange for testing according to current government guidelines, or arrange for you to come to the clinic for testing. We will ask you to provide results of any tests that you have done at other sites.

You should not donate blood within 3 months of the study, as the total amount of blood donated during this study is similar to that of a standard blood donation.

#### Women of childbearing potential

For female participants, we consider you to be of childbearing potential unless you have had previous surgical sterilisation (e.g. hysterectomy, bilateral salpingectomy, bilateral oophorectomy). Female participants of childbearing potential are required to use a **two** effective forms of contraception from the day of first administration of KLH until 60 days after the last administration of KLH. Acceptable forms of contraception for participants of childbearing potential include:

- Established use of oral, injected or implanted hormonal methods of contraception
- Placement of an intrauterine device (IUD) or intrauterine system (IUS)
- Barrier methods of contraception (condom or occlusive cap with spermicide).
- Male sterilisation, if the vasectomised partner is the sole partner of for the subject.
- True abstinence (defined as refraining from heterosexual intercourse) when this is in line with the preferred and usual lifestyle of the subject. Periodic abstinence and withdrawal are not acceptable methods of contraception.

## 9. Are there any possible disadvantages or risks from taking part?

The disadvantages of taking part relate to the inconvenience of attending for study visits, and the small risk of adverse effects of the study procedures. You should consider the following risks before agreeing to take part:

### 9.1. Potential risks of the challenge agents

#### Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin (Immucothel)

KLH is a highly purified protein obtained from the blood of an inedible shellfish. It has been used for over 50 years for challenge studies similar to ours, at doses up to 5 times greater than those used in our study. The specific product we are using (Immucothel) is a registered medicine in some countries.

Expected common adverse effects are limited to mild responses at the injection site e.g. pain, redness, warmth, swelling, tenderness or itching. Other potential foreseeable risks would be similar to those seen with standard vaccinations, including mild systemic reactions e.g. flu-like illness with feverishness, fatigue, malaise, arthralgia, sore muscles and headache. In almost all cases we would expect these to last no more than a few days. In very rare cases, local reactions could be more severe. If this were to occur we would not give any further injections and would withdraw you from the study, while also providing any appropriate medical care that you might need, or referring you to your GP or other NHS service as required.

There are some very rare but serious adverse effects that can occur with commonly used vaccinations. Although KLH is not a vaccine, it is similar to a vaccine in that it is foreign to the body and provokes an immune response, and it is therefore reasonable to expect a similar potential for these adverse effects. These include severe allergy (anaphylaxis) and problems with nerves such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome. The risk of these is extremely low.

#### Aluminium hydroxide adjuvant (Alhydrogel)

Aluminium hydroxide is a class of drugs called 'adjuvants'—these drugs are included in many registered vaccines due to their ability to boost the immune response. Aluminium hydroxide has been administered as a component of millions of doses of vaccine worldwide, and is considered very safe. Local, transient reactions may be observed including swelling, redness and itch. The combination of KLH with aluminium hydroxide adjuvant has been used in multiple previous studies, with no report of significant additional side effects compared to KLH alone.

#### Montanide ISA-51

Montanide ISA-51 is a mineral oil-based adjuvant, extensively studied for enhancing vaccine responses. Montanide ISA-51 can cause transient local skin reactions, including swelling, redness, pain, and itch. Occasionally Montanide ISA-

Information Sheet V2.0 2022-07-27

Study title: Varying Keyhole Limpet Haemocyanin-adjuvant dose combinations to explore the immune response: a human challenge study

IRAS Project number: 309002

Chief Investigator: James Fullerton

REC Reference number: 22/EE/0150



51 has been associated with systemic effects such as fatigue, and fever, which would be expected to disappear in no more than a day or two. In rare situations, more severe local reactions have been observed. These side effects were not reported in the two previous studies which combined KLH with Montanide ISA-51 at the same doses used in this study, thus the risk of these more severe side effects is considered to be low.

## **9.2. Potential risks of tests performed as part of the study**

To minimize the risk of problems all study procedures will be performed by experienced professionals using appropriate precautions and equipment.

### Blood donation

If you take part in the study and complete all follow-up the total amount of blood taken will be about 400mL, which is similar to a standard blood donation. As such it would not be expected to cause problems for an otherwise healthy volunteer. The blood donation itself requires the use of a needle into a vein of the arm, and this can cause minor bruising, tenderness, and occasionally feeling faint or actually fainting. Very rarely sites of blood tests can become infected and require antibiotic treatment. The blood tests will be taken by experienced members of the study team which should minimize the risks of side effects.

### Intramuscular injection

Intramuscular injection is a commonly performed procedure for the administration of medicines, including vaccines. The potential risks include minor discomfort on injection, minor bruising, tenderness, and occasionally feeling faint or actually fainting. There can also be discomfort for a few days afterwards due to bruising related to the injection, and due to the body's response to the KLH (+/- adjuvant) injection. Very rarely sites of injections can become infected and require antibiotic treatment. The injections will be performed by experienced members of the study team which should minimize the risks of side effects.

### Intradermal injection

The risks of intradermal injection are similar to those of intramuscular injection. Intradermal injections can cause stinging at the time of injection. There can also be discomfort, redness, and itching for a few days afterwards. Very rarely a small sore can form at the time of injection which can longer to heal or cause scarring.

### Skin punch biopsy

Skin punch biopsy is a commonly performed diagnostic procedure. The potential risks include minor bruising, bleeding, and skin discomfort. A 4-6mm punch biopsy will be performed using local anaesthetic to reduce discomfort. The injection of

anaesthetic can cause stinging during injection which fades quickly as the anaesthetic takes effect. It is common for a minute scar or persistent skin discoloration to be visible once the skin has healed—this usually fades over time but may be permanent. In rare cases, certain individuals can develop more prominent scars (called keloids). We will exclude people from the study who are known to have developed keloids previously, or have a family history of this, because we know this increases the risk of keloids. There is a very small risk of infection following skin biopsy—this is minimized by use of skin antiseptic at the time of biopsy, and careful technique of the doctor performing the biopsy.

#### **10. Will my General Practitioner (GP) be informed of my participation?**

We will send a letter to your GP informing them of your participation in the study. If we incidentally find an issue during the study that may be important for your health (e.g. high blood pressure, blood test abnormalities), we will inform your GP, or ask you to contact them, to ensure appropriate follow-up can be arranged.

#### **11. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All information that is collected about you during the course of the study will be kept strictly confidential. It is available only to the study team. Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations.

To help keep your information confidential, your sample and any information recorded about you in this study will be 'de-identified' and assigned a study code, which will be used on all study documents and any electronic database(s). All documents will be stored securely and only accessible by study staff and authorised personnel. The study staff will safeguard the privacy of participants' personal data.

#### **12. Will I be reimbursed for taking part?**

You will be compensated for your travel costs, time and inconvenience related to taking part in this study. The total amount of compensation you receive will depend on your degree of involvement:

- £20 if you attend the screening visit, but do not enter the main study (either due to your choice or decision of the study team).
- £75 if you attend the screening visit, and take part in the visit 1 study procedures, but do not complete all study procedures and follow-up (e.g. If you withdraw from the study, either due to your choice or the decision of the study team).
- £400 for completing all study procedures and follow-up.

If you agree to be contacted to provide a blood donation in the future for research related to this study, you will be compensated £20 to attend an appointment and provide this sample.

### **13. What will happen to the samples I give?**

Blood and skin samples that you give will be primarily stored and analysed in facilities based at NDORMS, University of Oxford. De-identified samples may be analysed in other hospitals, universities, non-profit institutions or commercial laboratories worldwide by other laboratories, including those overseas.

We will ask for your consent for the use of your samples to be stored indefinitely, and used in future ethically approved studies. If you agree to this, your anonymised samples will be used mainly by local researchers (if applicable), but ethically approved research projects may take place in hospitals, universities, non-profit institutions or commercial laboratories worldwide. If you agree to your samples being used in future research, your consent form will be held until the samples have been depleted or destroyed.

### **14. What will happen to my data?**

UK Data protection regulation requires that we state the legal basis for processing information about you. In the case of research, this is 'a task in the public interest.' The University of Oxford, based in the United Kingdom, is the sponsor for this study, and the data controller and is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

We will be using information provided by you in order to undertake this study and will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible. We will keep identifiable information about you for 12 months after the study has finished. This excludes any research documents with personal information such as consent forms which will be held securely at the University of Oxford for 3 years after the end of the study.

UK Data protection regulation provides you with control over your personal data and how it is used. When you agree to your information being used in research, however, some of those rights may be limited in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available at

<https://compliance.web.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights>

You can find out more about how we use your information by contacting the Chief Investigator, Dr James Fullerton, or Dr Philip Drennan (contact details at the top of this sheet)

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

Participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without penalty. If you withdraw from the study, any samples and data collected before your withdrawal will be used for research as detailed in this participant information sheet, unless you specifically request otherwise. However, if any of your anonymised data has been incorporated into the study, it will not be withdrawn or erased in order to maintain the scientific integrity of the study.

### **16. What happens at the end of the study?**

The results of this project will be disseminated via standard scientific channels: publication in scientific journals, poster and oral presentations at scientific conferences. The data will contribute to the fulfilment of doctoral research project and presented in the thesis. You will not be able to be identified in any of these. When you enter the study we will ask if you would like to be informed of the results when they become available, and how you would like to receive them (e.g. email, post, and/or link to a website).

### **17. What if we find something unexpected?**

If we incidentally find an issue during the study that may be important (e.g. high blood pressure, blood test abnormalities), we will inform your GP, or ask you to contact them, to ensure appropriate follow-up can be arranged.

### **18. What if there is a problem?**

The University of Oxford, as Sponsor, has appropriate insurance in place in the unlikely event that you suffer any harm as a direct consequence of your participation in this study.

If you wish to complain about any aspect of the way in which you have been approached or treated, or how your information is handled during the course of this study, you should contact the Chief Investigator, Dr James Fullerton (contact details at the top of this form) or you may contact the University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGERA) office on 01865 616480, or the director of RGERA, email [ctrng@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ctrng@admin.ox.ac.uk).

### **19. Who is organising and funding the study?**

- This study is sponsored by the University of Oxford. It is being funded by The Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research, donations to the Oxford University Botnar Research Centre (The John Climax Donation), and the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.
- All researchers involved in this study are employees of the University of Oxford. No members of the study team will receive additional payments for enrolling you in this study.

## **20. Who has reviewed the study?**

All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect participants' interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by **East of England - Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Research Ethics Committee (reference 22/EE/0150)**.

## **21. Participation in future research:**

At the end of the study, we will ask you if you are willing to be approached to be involved in future studies, or to provide additional blood samples for research related to this study. Your contact details will be held separately on password protected computer servers maintained by NDORMS, University of Oxford. Agreeing to be contacted does not oblige you to take part in future research, and you can be removed from this register at any time you wish. If you consent, we will retain a copy of your consent form until such time as your details are removed from our database. The consent form and your details will be kept separate.

## **22. Further information and contact details:**

**Please contact Dr James Fullerton (Chief Investigator and Clinical Pharmacologist) or Dr Philip Drennan (Co-Investigator, Clinical Pharmacologist, and Clinical Research Fellow, NDORMS) using the details at the top of this form if you would like further information or to ask any questions**

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study.**