



Participant Information Sheet

Project Title: Parental attitudes towards topical corticosteroid use in skin allergies

Project Summary:

This project is a qualitative interview study looking at the management experiences of parents with children who have atopic dermatitis or eczema. Parents of children who have atopic dermatitis or eczema will be invited to attend one-on-one interviews to explore experiences surrounding the use of topical corticosteroids in skin allergy management. We aim to use this information to assist eczema management in Australian general practice.

This research study is being conducted by Dr. Christabel Hoe, a GP registrar, under the supervision of Dr Phyllis Lau, Senior Research Fellow, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University and Dr Yasin Shahab, Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University.

How is the study being paid for?

This study is an Academic GP project supported by the Royal Australian College of General Practice.

What will I be asked to do?

You are invited to take part in the study because you have been identified as a parent or caregiver of a child under the age of 16 who has atopic dermatitis or eczema. If you agree, you will be asked to take part in a one-on-one interview through either a phone call or teleconference service (eg. Zoom), where you will have the opportunity to share your experiences surrounding steroid use in management of your child's condition. We will also ask you some background information (eg. your education level) prior to the interview to assist with our data collection processes. We ask that you answer the questions to the best of your ability and as how you interpret them. There are no wrong answers as we are exploring your experiences and opinions. We will be recording the interviews to assist with data collection.

How much of my time will I need to give?

We estimate interviews to range between 20-60 minutes.
You may choose to stop the interview at any point throughout the process.

What benefits will I, and/or the broader community, receive for participating?

You will be given a \$30 gift card to thank you for your participation in our study.
We aim to use our findings to assist with improving dermatitis and eczema management in Australian general practice.

Will the study involve any risk or discomfort for me? If so, what will be done to rectify it?

Our interview questions will be general questions about your experiences with your child's management of their dermatitis or eczema. We will avoid any personal questions where possible.

You do not have to answer any question if you feel uncomfortable and you may stop the interview at any time, and we will provide additional support to assist you if appropriate.

How do you intend to publish or disseminate the results?

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that the participant cannot be identified, except with your permission. The overall findings will be used in publications to work towards improving the management of atopic dermatitis and eczema in Australian general practice.

Will the data and information that I have provided be disposed of?

Your identifiable data will be securely stored at Western Sydney University for the minimum post-publication timeframe of five years and subsequently will be destroyed in accordance with the university's policies and protocols.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not obliged to be involved. If you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving reason. This can either be through an email or phone call to the research team.

If you do choose to withdraw, any information that you have supplied will not be used in our study.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by sharing the chief investigator's contact details with them. They can contact the chief investigator, Dr Christabel Hoe, to discuss their potential participation in this project and obtain a copy of the information sheet.

What if I require further information?

Please contact us should you wish to discuss the research further before deciding whether to participate.

Dr. Christabel Hoe
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What if I have a complaint?

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 or email humanethics@westernsydney.edu.au

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form. The information sheet is for you to keep, and the consent form is retained by the researcher/s.

This study has been approved by the Western Sydney University Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is *H15404*.