RESEARCH PARTICIPANT REGISTRY

RESEARCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT: EAR INFECTIONS

**Why study ear infections?**

It’s very important that we study ear infections. Usually, children with ear infections receive 10 days of antibiotics. But doctors are not sure if that is the best way to treat the infection. Maybe children don’t need treatment for 10 days.

Doctors are also concerned about patients using too many antibiotics. Antibiotics can have side effects (some of which include diarrhea or yeast infection). Also, the bacteria can change so that the antibiotic doesn’t work any longer. That’s why we need to study the best way to treat ear infections. We want to find the best way to treat them without causing side effects and resistant germs.

**Research and expertise**

In young infants, it can be difficult to tell if the middle ear is infected. For more than 40 years, doctors at Children’s Hospital have been committed to expanding what they know about ear infections. These efforts include strong support from the National Institutes of Health. We have helped develop the current American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. Our doctors have helped clearly define which ear infections should be treated with antibiotics. We have developed online programs for health care providers. These programs show how to tell the difference among normal ears, ears with fluid in the middle ear, and ears that are infected. Ears that are infected are the only ones that need to be treated with antibiotics.

With our studies, we hope to improve how we treat children with ear infections. Our last study, completed in 2009, looked at children under 2 years of age with ear infections. Symptoms cleared up faster in children who received antibiotics. They also were less likely to have signs of an ear infection at the end of treatment than those who did not receive antibiotics.

In our current study about ear infections, we will find out whether five days of antibiotics will be as good as the usual 10 days. With fewer days of antibiotics, we hope to have fewer side effects. Fewer days of antibiotics will also lower germ resistance. This study is open to children ages 6 to 23 months who have an ear infection. The study is open for enrollment every year from October 1 through March 31. The children should not have taken any antibiotics for their ear infections during the previous four days. Children in this study will have careful checks for ear infections. The clinical team is available by phone 24 hours a day. Children in the study can be seen whenever parents have concerns about their child.

**Why enroll my child in research?**

Clinical research is vital to solving many of today’s health challenges. Children’s Hospital is one of the leading sites in the U.S. for many of these pediatric studies. Much of today’s medical care is based on results from past studies. Clinical trials help us to assess the effectiveness of various types of treatments. This is true for new medications, medical devices, or physical therapies. A study tries to answer a health question in a carefully controlled setting. Taking part in a clinical trial helps others by contributing to the advancement of medical knowledge. Participants in clinical trials can play more active roles in their own health care. They can also gain access to new treatments before they are widely available. If you would like to hear more about this study, please contact the Research Participant Registry office at 1-866-438-8230, or at researchregistry@hs.pitt.edu.

**Parents: Sign Up for the Research Participant Registry**

The Research Participant Registry is open to people of all ages. You can sign up for the registry at participating UPMC outpatient office locations, through UPMC HealthTrak, or through the registry Web site. Please go to http://www.researchregistry.pitt.edu/ for more information.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR STUDIES!

PRO09040502: AOM 10v5

Are you the parent of a child age 6 to 23 months with an ear infection? If so, your child may be eligible for a study to help find out how many days of antibiotics children should take for an ear infection. We will see your child after treatment to confirm that the infection has cleared and every six weeks through the end of winter. There is a final visit in September. Parents will be compensated.

PRO12100034A: Vitamin D and Vascular Function in Obese Children—Ages 10-17

Researchers at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC are looking for children ages 10-17 to volunteer for a study to examine if increasing the vitamin D levels of vitamin D-deficient children who are obese or overweight will improve their cardiovascular health. Participants will be compensated.

For more information about these studies, please contact the Research Participant Registry office at 1-866-438-8230.

RECENT STUDY FINDINGS

Gender-Specific Parental Perceptions Are Associated with Reduced HPV Vaccination Intention in Sons

Primary Investigator: Alison Galdys, MD, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (bonowal@upmc.edu)

This project was conducted when Dr. Galdys was an internal medicine-pediatrics resident at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common viral sexually transmitted infection worldwide. HPV infection causes oral and genital disease in both males and females. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that girls ages 11-26 years and boys ages 9-26 years routine receive HPV vaccination. Despite ACIP recommendations, CDC data indicate that only about 15 percent of eligible boys in the U.S. have ever received HPV vaccination compared with an estimated 45 percent of girls.

Researchers conducted a study to investigate the reasons why parents request HPV vaccination for their daughters but not their sons. We surveyed 40 parents whose daughters were vaccinated against HPV and whose sons were not vaccinated. Most parents reported that they view HPV as a bigger health problem for their daughters than for their sons. Parents who reported concern that HPV could adversely affect their sons’ health were more likely to report that they will request HPV vaccination for their sons in the future. We concluded that increased parent education about both the health risks of HPV in boys and the benefits of vaccination might increase awareness of HPV-related conditions in boys and how these conditions can be prevented. This awareness could, in turn, increase the number of males that are vaccinated against HPV.

WE ARE GOING GREEN! SIGN UP TO RECIEVE EMAIL NOTIFICATION FROM THE REGISTRY.

Do you want to receive your study matches and newsletters from the registry via e-mail instead of U.S. mail? If so, visit https://www.researchregistry.pitt.edu/Green.aspx, call our office directly at 1-866-438-8230, or send an e-mail with your name, date of birth, and e-mail address to researchregistry@hs.pitt.edu.