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**iFAAM: EuroPrevall birth cohort follow-up study**

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (Parents/Guardians) - QUESTIONNAIRE**

You and your child are being invited to participate in a follow-up to the EuroPrevall (PIFA) birth cohort study. We hope this will help improve our understanding of why children develop allergies and asthma and how these conditions change with age. Information of this kind may help the development of strategies to prevent allergies and asthma in the future. Before you decide to participate it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve.

Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

Within the EuroPrevall birth cohort (known as PIFA in the UK) we assessed the development of food allergies in the first two years of life. We were able to identify why some children develop food allergies and others do not.

In the follow-up study (called iFAAM - Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management), we plan to reassess all children from the Europrevall (PIFA) study at school age to understand how older children are affected by food allergy and how this relates to other conditions such as asthma.



The study aims to answer the following questions:

* Why do some children develop allergies while others do not?
* What happens to food allergies that start in early childhood?
* Do they disappear in school-age or persist?
* What other childhood allergies such as eczema or asthma play a role at school age?
* Can we predict allergies in school-age children with information and environmental data we have from infancy and preschool age?
* How do current dietary habits influence food allergy and other allergic conditions?
* Which new allergies develop in school age?

**Why have we been chosen?**

You have been chosen because your child took part in the EuroPrevall (PIFA) birth cohort study.

**What will happen to me and my child if we decide to take part?**

Initially, you will be asked to complete a short questionnaire (10-15 minutes) when your child is 7-9 years of age. We will then invite your child for a face-to-face assessment at a local clinical centre (or at home if required) (1hour). Further information about this can be found on the iFAAM website.

We are expecting that a few children will have signs of possible food allergy; they will be offered a food challenge to properly diagnose them.

**This study does not involve any study medication. If you do not wish for your child to undergo clinical assessment at a study centre/in the home, your answers to the questionnaire are still very helpful to us.**

**Completing the questionnaire**

Thistakes 10-15 minutes to complete. It can be completed online (using the personalised access in the accompanying letter) or, if preferred via telephone, at a clinical centre or on paper! This questionnaire will include questions on you and your child’s medical problems including allergies and asthma, living environment and dietary habits. Even if your child does not have any allergy/asthma issues, your answers are still very helpful for our research.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your participation in this study will help scientists and clinicians develop tools to help the diagnosis of food allergy and asthma and also help identify preventive strategies for food allergies and asthma.

**Do we have to take part?**

No, you and your child do not have to take part. It is completely voluntary and you can choose which aspects of the study you would like to take part in.

**Will our taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All personal information collected in this study will be kept confidential. The data we collect will not be labelled with your or your child’s personal details and will be stored securely. Data collected during the study may be shared with our research collaborators; however they will not know who the information belongs to.

**What if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to a member of the research team who will do their best to answer your questions (see contacts below). If you still have questions or concerns, you can contact Research and Development, University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (023 8120 5078).

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

We aim to publish the results of the study in medical journals so that other doctors and researchers can make use of them. This is likely to be accompanied by an article in the press. It will not be possible to identify any individuals involved in this study from these published results.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The researchers at the University of Southampton are organising and carrying out this study. The study is being funded by the European Union within the project *Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management* (iFAAM, grant agreement no. 312147).

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was given a favourable ethical opinion by the NRES Committee South Central - Hampshire B.

**Contact for further information, questions or concerns**

Professor Graham Roberts on 023 8120 6160, email iFAAM@southampton.ac.uk or visit [www.southampton.ac.uk/iFAAM](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/iFAAM).

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