

A prospective observational study of environmental factors affecting atopic eczema in children

Investigators: Sinéad Langan, Paul Silcocks, Hywel Williams

University of Nottingham

This proposal exploits a research gap in finding out what causes eczema to flare using objective environmental exposure measures. The study will identify how much of eczema activity can be explained using current known or suspected flare factors, either singly or in combination.

This research is designed to answer the following questions:

- What causes atopic eczema flares?
- Does atopic eczema truly represent a complex disease model?
- Are there "summer" and "winter" types of atopic eczema?

This information will be crucial to our understanding of the disease process and may lead to increased understanding of disease mechanisms with the potential to lead to a trial of therapeutic interventions.

To date 31 participants have been recruited to participate in this study. A further 29 children will be recruited by April 2007. Recruitment is through dermatology outpatient clinics in the Queen's Medical Centre and the affiliated community clinics

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Publications arising from this study: