murdoch children's research institute

Northern Health

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

INTRANASAL HEPARIN TRIAL

THE INTRANASAL HEPARIN TRIAL (INHERIT)

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute, University of Melbourne, Monash University, The Northern Hospital are conducting a study testing Intranasal Heparin to treat early COVID-19 infection.

WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?

- COVID-19 is a rapidly spreading infectious disease which carries a significant risk of death and has a large economic impact throughout the world and a large impact on Health Care Systems around the world.
- While we currently have effective vaccines, they do not protect the whole community and there is a need to find new approaches to reducing community spread.
- Reducing the viral load in the nose may reduce the risk or severity of long COVID.

WHAT IS HEPARIN?

- Heparin is a naturally occurring sugar molecule which has been used for over 80 years to treat a range of medical problems including heart attacks, strokes and blood clots.
- Recent studies suggest it binds the COVID-19 virus and may reduce the virus' ability to enter cells. This may be an important way in reducing the virus multiplying in the early stages of infection.
- Heparin may be able to treat people with early COVID-19 infections and prevent infection amongst their close household contacts, helping to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Heparin is safe, inexpensive, stable for long periods at room temperature and available worldwide and if effective could help slow the progression of the current pandemic.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS STUDY?

- Households will be randomly assigned to either Heparin or the placebo control solution. You will have an equal chance of getting randomly assigned to one of the 2 treatment groups.
- This study is blinded so you will not know which treatment you have received.
- You will be required to spray this into your nose 3 times a day for 10 days.
- Complete self-administered RAT tests on Day 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 10.
- Complete a PCR test on Day 3, 5 & 10 (a Research team member will come to your home to complete this).
- Receive daily SMS, phone or online support and monitoring of your COVID-19 infection (if you are COVID-19 positive) and monitoring of your household members enrolled in the study for 10 days. Follow up phone calls at 14 days, 1 month, 6 months & 1 year.

WHO CAN BE IN THE STUDY?

- Any person aged over 5 years of age who tests positive to COVID-19 or is a household contact of someone of any age who tests positive to COVID-19.
- At least one other person in each household must consent to participate to be randomized.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE IN THIS STUDY?

- Children aged less than 5 years of age can not be randomized to therapy but can contribute to outcomes.
- People with an allergy to Heparin.
- People with previous Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT).
- Recurrent blood nose that has required hospitalization in the last 3 months.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Professor Paul Monagle
paul.monagle@rch.org.au

Professor Donald Campbell
donald.campbell@nh.org.au

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