



Information Sheet for Healthy Volunteers

MOUNT SINAI
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

What is the purpose of this research study?

We are conducting a research study to find the causes of Childhood Absence Epilepsy, also called Petit mal epilepsy. This form of epilepsy runs in families, suggesting that some of it is caused by altered genes. Our hope is that our results will lead to better treatment or even cure of these and other kinds of seizures.

Why are we asking for healthy volunteers?

We are looking for healthy people that do not have epilepsy or a family history of epilepsy to be able to compare them to our epilepsy patients. We are asking for your help because you do not have epilepsy and any difference in genes between you (and other healthy people) and epilepsy patients will help us to determine what might cause Petit mal epilepsy.

What do we ask from the volunteers?

If you are interested in helping us in this research study and agree to volunteer, you will be asked to collect 2ml (about 1/2 table spoon) of saliva in a special container that we will supply. The fluid that is already in the container is only a preservative, so your saliva will not spoil. We will then extract the DNA (the genetic material) from the saliva for comparison to the one from epilepsy patients. The DNA will be stored in our laboratory until it is used up.

Is participation confidential?

Your participation is completely anonymous. We are not asking for your name or address or other personal identification information. However, we have to match you with regard to sex, age and ethnicity to our sample of epilepsy patients. We are therefore asking you to provide us with this information. This information will be linked to your sample only by a code number. Nobody, not even you, will be able to track differences in the DNA to you. We are not doing genetic testing, therefore the results of this research study will not allow us to know if you may have a gene for any disease.

Is participation voluntary?

Your participation is completely voluntary.

Are volunteers paid for this study?

You will not be paid for volunteering in this research study.

Is there any cost involved in participation?

There is no cost to volunteers for participating in this study.

We are giving you this information sheet for you to keep.

Funding for this study is provided by the National Institute of Health (NIH). This research is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current US laws.