



INITIAL PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE 3Mg STUDY

(Is magnesium sulphate, in addition to standard treatment, effective in patients with an asthma attack?)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. The purpose of the study is to find out whether treating an asthma attack with magnesium sulphate, in addition to standard treatment, relieves symptoms of breathlessness and reduces the chances that people with acute asthma will need to be admitted to hospital. The study will compare standard treatment for asthma to standard treatment and magnesium sulphate, given either into a vein or through a nebuliser.

Why have I been chosen?

You have come to hospital with an asthma attack. The doctors treating you think that magnesium sulphate, if it is effective, may ease your symptoms of breathlessness and improve your chances of avoiding hospital admission.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will be free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect the standard of care you receive.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part you will be given the standard treatment for asthma. You will also be given an infusion into a vein in your arm and 3 nebulisers. Along with the standard treatments you will be given one of the following three alternatives:

1. Magnesium sulphate added to the nebuliser but not the infusion.
2. Magnesium sulphate added to the infusion but not the nebuliser
3. Nothing added to either the infusion or the nebuliser (just standard treatment)

We will then monitor your symptoms for up to four hours, after which the doctor will advise whether you should be admitted to hospital or go home. Neither you, nor the doctors will know which treatment you have been given.

What do I have to do?

All the treatments will be given by the doctors and nurses. You will need to answer some questions and do a Peak Flow recording (breathing test).

Are there any side effects to treatment?

Magnesium sulphate can cause feelings of nausea, vomiting, thirst or facial flushing, particularly when given through a vein. In rare cases overdose of magnesium sulphate can cause weakness, coma or heart problems. The doctors will monitor your heartbeat during treatment.

We will give you more information shortly, when you are feeling better.