



Media Release

SA Health

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WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PART OF WORLD-FIRST TRIAL FOR PEANUT ALLERGY TREATMENT

South Australian children who suffer from a peanut allergy now have the opportunity to take part in a trial that may hold the answers to a long-term, life-changing treatment.

The trial will test a ground-breaking new treatment, using probiotic and peanut oral immunotherapy, in an attempt to induce a long-lasting tolerance in children with peanut allergy.

Professor Michael Gold from the Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Women's and Children's Hospital said peanut allergy can affect a child for life.

"Around one in 30 South Australian children are affected by peanut allergy and unlike other allergies, peanut allergy is usually life-long," Professor Gold said.

"Peanut allergy can cause severe allergic reactions including anaphylaxis and many children with peanut allergy lead very restricted lifestyles because their food choices are so limited.

"We believe this trial has a real chance to develop a treatment that will allow peanut-allergic children to become tolerant to peanut."

There are still spaces available for South Australian children aged from one to 10 to join the study, which will involve 200 children from Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide.

Led by Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) with additional sites at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide and the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth, Professor Gold said the trial will focus on developing long-term tolerance to peanut rather than inducing short-term tolerance.

"This trial aims to compare the tolerance level achieved by children who have taken small amounts of peanut along with a probiotic, to that achieved by children who are taking small amounts of peanut on its own," Professor Gold said.

"As such, the outcomes of this trial are expected to have a significant impact on the way that peanut allergy is managed in the future, both in Australia and overseas."

The trial builds upon an earlier world-first study which showed the probiotic and peanut oral immunotherapy approach to be highly effective at inducing tolerance to peanut in children with peanut allergy.

More than 80 per cent of peanut-allergic children who received the treatment developed tolerance to peanut, compared to only 4 per cent of children who received a placebo treatment.

For more information

Call the SA Health Media Line
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This study aims to confirm the previous findings as well as verify that probiotic and peanut oral immunotherapy is better than just peanut oral immunotherapy alone for treatment of peanut allergy.

The probiotic and peanut oral immunotherapy technology was licenced by MCRI to ProTA Therapeutics, an Australian start-up allergy immunotherapy company, backed by OneVentures, a major venture capital firm with a number of funds under management totalling around \$340 million.

South Australian parents of children who aged from one to 10 years of age who suffer from peanut allergy are encouraged to join the trial by contacting the Women's and Children's Hospital on 8161 9294, or email at Health.CYWHSAllergyResearch@sa.gov.au

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