



STUDY TO FIND GENETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY CAUSING AFM (ACUTE FLACCID MYELITIS)

We are conducting a research study through the Johns Hopkins Schools of Public Health and Medicine involving patients with acute flaccid myelitis (AFM), a "polio-like" condition for which the cause remains unknown. We theorize that there is an underlying genetic susceptibility that causes the severe reaction we are seeing among a small subset of children exposed to the causative agent (from August 2014 – January 2018, 320 cases were reported to the CDC). Because of the similarities to polio, we are expanding our study to also include polio survivors.

Briefly, our study is seeking to enroll individuals who had paralysis following infection with poliovirus. We will ask to collect a saliva sample from each patient, which we will extract DNA from. We will also ask them to fill out a survey with a few brief questions related to personal and family medical history. We will then compare their DNA to that of AFM patients to search for genetic variants that both groups share. You can find further information in the attached study materials.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the study.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Nicole Thornton, MSPH
Research Assistant
Department of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
nthornt4@jhu.edu 410-614-0146

Priya Duggal, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor
Director, Genetic Epidemiology Program
Department of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
pduggal@jhu.edu 410-955-121