

the runny ear study

CHILD INFORMATION SHEET (11-16 YEARS)

**We want to find out the best way to help children with runny ears
Do you want to join our study?**

What is this study about?

To see if antibiotic ear drops can make children's runny ears better more quickly, instead of taking antibiotic medicines that are tablets or liquid. Many children in the UK are given antibiotic medicines by mouth as soon as they get runny ears; but it may be possible to use antibiotic ear drops instead and this is what we are looking at in this study.

Why me?

We are asking children with runny ears who are up to 16 years old to take part.

Why is it a good idea to take part?

You can help find out what is the best way to make runny ears better more quickly.

Do I have to do this?

No, it's up to you. You can say no at any time and you don't have to say why.

What will happen?

- 1) When you go in to see the doctor or nurse, you and your mum or dad will answer some questions about your illness.
- 2) You will answer some short questions and write your name on a form to say you want to take part.
- 3) The doctor or nurse will give you a prescription for the antibiotic ear drops or for an antibiotic medicine (liquid or tablets depending on how old you are), to take at home. Only some children will get ear drops. We want to find out what is best for children with runny ears - ear drops given immediately, medicine you take a few days later if your runny ear doesn't get better or medicine you take straightaway.
- 4) Your mum or dad will help to give you the ear drops or the medicine until you feel better, and write down how you are in a diary, called "Your Child's Symptom and Recovery Questionnaire", for the next two weeks.

What happens to your symptom diary?

Your diary will be kept in a safe place at the University of Bristol. We will look at your diary and the diaries filled in by other families taking part in the study, think about how long it took for you to feel better and decide on the best way for doctors to treat other children like you who have runny ears. We will write about what we find but we will not tell anyone your name.

What if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time and nobody will be upset. Tell your mum or dad you do not want to do it anymore and they will tell the researcher. The researcher will then take your name out of the study.



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