

PEOPLE WITH PSORIASIS WITHOUT ARTHRITIS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY

Title of Study

Interplay between Skin and Joints in Psoriatic Arthritis: Genetics of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis

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Purpose of the Study

Approximately 30% of patients with psoriasis will develop an inflammatory arthritis, psoriatic arthritis. Although the exact cause of the diseases is not known, research suggests both psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis have a hereditary (genetic) basis. However, we do not yet understand why it is that some patients with psoriasis develop arthritis while others do not.

The purpose of this study is to identify the differences between the genetic make up of psoriasis patients with and without arthritis. This information will provide important clues about the cause of both diseases and allow us to determine which factors predict the development of arthritis in a person with psoriasis.

Participation in the Study

If you have a diagnosis of psoriasis but **do not have arthritis** you are eligible to participate in this study. Participation in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw from it at any time. Your decision to participate will not affect your medical care.

Study Procedures

You will be scheduled to see a rheumatologist who will examine you to ensure you do not have arthritis. Some patients may be asked to have x-rays if clinically indicated. You will also be asked to fill out some questionnaires that assess the degree to which your psoriasis is affecting your quality of life, as well as your family history of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. You will be asked to give a small quantity of blood (3 tablespoons), which will be used to isolate your DNA (genetic material) for testing. The total time commitment will be about 1 hour. You will also be asked to return to the psoriatic arthritis clinic at the Toronto Western Hospital for a clinical assessment on a yearly basis, to see if you have developed arthritis.

**If you would like to participate in this study or would like more information,
please contact Sutha at 416-603-5800 ext. 2951**

