



Preterm babies are more likely to get infections and be admitted to hospital.

But we do not know why!

We suspect their ability to fight infection (their "immune system") may be immature and unable to fight off the germs that cause these illnesses.

If we can understand how a baby's immune system develops we can decide the best time to give preterm babies their vaccinations. This will also help us to know more about preventing other infections, including allergic diseases such as eczema and asthma.

How can I find out more about the study?

If you want to know more, or book an appointment, we will be happy to talk to you. Please contact Samantha Irwin on:

Telephone
9340 7479

Or

Email
vtg@ichr.uwa.edu.au

In Perth, this study is run by the research nurses, scientists and doctors at the Vaccine Trials Group, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, in conjunction with Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.



Your baby's development is important to us



A vaccine study of the immunity of newborn babies

The purpose of this study is to look at the development of babies' immune responses to standard vaccinations, how susceptible they are to infections and to test for allergies over the first 2 years of life.



Who can take part?

All babies who are born at King Edward Memorial Hospital will be eligible to take part in this study. It will include both babies born prematurely and full term babies.

Are there any costs involved?

No, there are no costs involved. We will provide free parking at Princess Margaret Hospital for each visit.

What will I have to do?

- Allow your baby to receive all their recommended routine immunisations, given by experienced nurses.
- Come to the Vaccine Trials Group at Princess Margaret Hospital for eight visits over a twenty four month period.
- Fill in a monthly diary card of infections your baby develops, any medications he/she might have taken as well as any doctors visits and/or hospital admissions.
- Allow your baby to have three blood tests during the study.
- Allow your baby to have seven saliva samples taken.
- Allow your baby to have two allergy tests.
- Answer a quick questionnaire at five of the visits.
- If you are breastfeeding, provide a breast milk sample at the first three visits.