



MIS BAIR trial update

December 2020

We are excited to finally be sending you this update on the MIS BAIR trial!

As you know, MIS BAIR is working to understand if giving babies the BCG vaccine helps prevent infections and allergies.

MIS BAIR parts one and two

MIS BAIR part one followed babies from birth to 12 months. Part two continues following our participants from one to five years of age.

Our researchers, clinicians, PhD students and statisticians have been busily reviewing and analysing your all-important questionnaire responses and samples. We are almost ready to report on whether BCG helps prevent infection and allergies. In the meantime, we have found that BCG vaccination changes the immune response in some important ways related to infection and eczema.

Recommencing five year visits post-COVID lockdown

Owing to COVID-19, our follow-up visits had to be stopped. Our team has been extremely busy with COVID-19 activities and we are very sorry that we have not kept in contact with you as much as we would have liked. Thank you for being patient with us. We are looking forward to catching up with you in the new year when we will be allowed to start up our visits again. Our MIS BAIR children will be between the ages of five to seven years. However, to avoid confusion, we will still call the visit a '5-year follow up'.

We know how busy life can get with little people, so we are very appreciative to each and every one of our MIS BAIR families. Thank you for your continued time and support.



Recruitment facts

We recruited **nearly 1300** participants to MIS BAIR Part One, including 21 sets of twins

More than 1000 participants are continuing through to MIS BAIR Part Two.

Webinar

21 January 2021 at 3pm

Professor Nigel Curtis will be presenting a webinar for MIS BAIR families on Thursday 21 January at 3 pm. The webinar will give you a chance to reconnect following the COVID-19 interruption to the five-year follow up visits. Professor Curtis will present some of the results from the trial so far, discuss the five-year visits and also highlight how MIS BAIR assisted the rapid set up of the BRACE trial.

You can register your interest in the webinar [here](#).



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Our Team

Five Year Visit Nurses

Christine Axelrad & Emma Burrell

Profile: Christine Axelrad

Christine Axelrad is a registered nurse/midwife and has been involved in allergy research for many years, working on several allergy trials. Since October 2020, Christine has taken on the role of MIS BAIR coordinator. She is looking forward to meeting the MIS BAIR participants and their families at their five year appointments.



Profile: Emma Burrell

Emma Burrell is a registered nurse who has done a bit of everything over the last 13 years but predominantly working in paediatric allergy. Last year, Emma joined MIS BAIR as a research nurse in her first research role. Since COVID-19, Emma has been assisting on the BRACE Trial, and is now looking forward to catching up with the MIS BAIR participants at their five year visit.



BRACE Trial

'MIS BAIR paved the way for this important international trial'. - Prof. Nigel Curtis

This Trial looks at whether the BCG vaccine reduces the impact of COVID-19. Healthcare workers from hospitals around the world are being recruited - UK, The Netherlands, Spain and Brazil, in the largest trial of its kind.

The trial has been endorsed by the Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom, who has called for global support and assistance in the fight against COVID-19.

COVID Immune

Studies that collected blood samples pre COVID-19 give us a unique opportunity to understand more about COVID-19. Particularly why children appear to be less commonly infected than adults, and how the body responds to the infection and allergy. Samples stored from when your child previously participated in the MIS BAIR study may provide important information to address these questions.

You may receive contact from the COVID Immune team if you supplied blood and ticked the option expressing interest in future ethics approved studies.

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Dental Examination

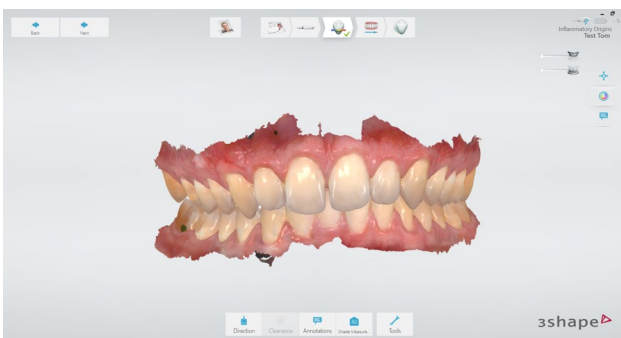
At the five year visit, you will now have the opportunity for your child to have a free dental examination as part of our trial.

This dental exam by a registered oral health professional will include:

- examining your child’s mouth and teeth, checking for cavities/dental decay as well as any developmental marks on the teeth
- collecting dental plaque (using a swab similar to a cotton bud to run along the gum and teeth)
- making a 3D scan of your child’s teeth to document our findings. The 3D scan will be only of the mouth and your child will not be identifiable in these photos. The 3D image may be used to improve data collection and software analysis of future scans

We will use the scans to determine whether BCG has had an effect on the dental health of participants.

Please email misbair@mcri.edu.au if this examination interests you so we can assess demand.



An example of an adult dental scan

MIS BAIR “5-year allergy assessment visit”



Just before your child turns five years old we will invite you to attend the MIS BAIR five-year allergy assessment visit at The Royal Children’s hospital. We will pay for your parking on this visit. These assessments are very similar to the one year visit, involving a skin prick test to a group of common allergens, listed below.

Food allergens: peanut, cashew, egg white, cow’s milk, sesame, hazelnut, shellfish. We will also test walnut for the first time.

Environmental allergens: cat, dog, rye grass, mould, house dust mite.

Cardio and dental assessments

At the five year allergy assessment visit we may ask if your child would like to be involved in additional assessments. These additional assessments will look at the structure and function of the blood vessels to assess cardiovascular health and a dental examination. These are optional non-invasive tests. We will explain them to you in more detail before the assessment.



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Please remember to email misbair@mcri.edu.au if you change contact details-phone, address, email.

Thank you!

Thank you for the time and commitment you give to our research.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year break, and wish all the best to our MIS BAIR kids starting kinder and school in 2021.

