

The response of the eye to different ocular allergy eyedrops

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project about ocular surface immune cells before, during and after treatment with eyedrops in allergic conjunctivitis patients.

The research study is looking to recruit people who meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age or older.
- Positive result in the skin prick test (an allergy test used to identify allergens responsible for triggering symptoms in allergic diseases).
- All participants must have current active allergic conjunctivitis symptoms (Including itchiness or watery eyes or burning feeling or feeling like there is dirt or grit in your eyes) or signs (including redness or swollen eyelids), with or without a prior diagnosis of ocular allergy or hay fever.
- Able to read and comprehend English and give informed consent as demonstrated by signing a record of informed consent.



Participants meeting the following criteria will be excluded from the study:

- Severe eye allergy (reflective from the total symptoms scores of the allergy questionnaires).
- Negative result in the skin prick test.
- Severe asthma.
- Severe eczema.
- Past anaphylactic episode.
- Previous allergic reaction to any component of topical eyedrops used in this study.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding/childbirth within three months from the date of recruitment.
- Regular contact lens wear (wearing contact lenses for at least two or more full days in a week).
- All ocular surface diseases except allergic conjunctivitis.
- Ocular diseases that involve the cornea.
- Active intraocular inflammation.
- History of corneal refractive surgery.
- Systematic conditions affecting the ocular surface include diabetes, thyroid disorder, rheumatoid arthritis and Sjögren syndrome.

Participants will be asked to complete the following research activities:

- You will be given questionnaires to fill out before, during and after the start of the treatment.
- A Skin Prick Test to confirm that you are allergic and eligible for this study.
- You will be provided with commercially available allergic conjunctivitis treatment eyedrops (Zaditen eyedrops, Prednisolone sodium phosphate 0.5% eyedrops, and Systane Hydration Unit Dose eyedrops) to put two drops daily for two weeks.
- Eye examinations including external examination and examination of the ocular dendritic cell with a microscope.
- There will be 7 visits (including the screening visit) and each visit will take between 60 minutes to complete (except the first visit will take approximately 2 hours). The study will take 5 weeks to be completed.
- Your name will enter the lucky draw and the winner will be awarded a \$200 gift voucher.

A full description of all research activities, including any risks, harms or discomforts that you may experience while participating in this research is included in the attached Participant Information Statement and Consent Form.

Please contact the following person via email or phone to register your interest in taking part in the research:

Name	Farshid Karimi
Position	PhD candidate
Telephone	+61 447197463
Email	Farshid.karimi@unsw.edu.au

If you have questions about the research and would like to contact the Chief Investigator, please contact the following person:

Chief Investigator

Name	Fiona Stapleton
Position	Scientia Professor
Telephone	+61 293854375
Email	f.stapleton@unsw.edu.au