

Ethics Pro#: Pro00082531

Dear participant,

Re: Asthma and Youth Soccer: An investigation into the level of asthma awareness and training among youth soccer coaches

Investigators:

- Chandu Sadasivan, Undergraduate Student, University of Alberta, 780-982-0122
- Dr. Andrew Cave, Professor, University of Alberta, 780-492-8102

We are writing to inform you of a study involving data collection from coaches around the city of Edmonton who volunteer for the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association. The principal investigator of the research study, Chandu Sadasivan is a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. Through the course of this project, Chandu will be supervised by Dr. Andrew Cave who is a physician and professor at the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine.

The research team has three main objectives for carrying out this study, which are 1) to investigate the current level of asthma awareness among soccer coaches, 2) find if there is a need for asthma-related training, and 3) determine the current barriers to administration of such training. To study these objectives, we will begin by determining the current consensus regarding the topic through a scoping review of scientific literature on asthma training and soccer. We will then administer an online survey for EMSA coaches. After descriptive statistical analysis of the survey responses, we will discuss our findings with EMSA management and together propose appropriate solutions. If we find that there is a need for appropriate coaching courses, we will develop these courses as our next project. Additionally, the results will be disseminated to medical journals and external soccer and sports associations.

Through studying awareness of coaches regarding asthma in youth soccer, the study will be influential in changing how coach training is approached. Developing an easy to administer training protocol for coping with asthma in sports would ease the tension felt by coaches and allow them to approach their roles with greater confidence. Furthermore, ensuring coaches are adequately trained and knowledgeable would greatly reduce the anxiety felt by parents enrolling their children in sports. However, there are no direct benefits for the research participants.

There are no foreseeable risks, discomforts and inconveniences associated with this study. The survey will be anonymous and participant data will not be easily identifiable. All data collected will be stored on a password protected and encrypted computer within the Department of Family Medicine. You should know that while we will keep the information you give us confidential - in the United States under US privacy laws, the government has the right to access all information held in electronic databases. Study data will be securely stored for 5 years after the study is over, at which time it will be destroyed following the appropriate University of Alberta protocol. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Data withdrawal is not possible since all data collected will be anonymous and cannot be traced back to particular participants. The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you any questions about your rights or how research should be conducted, you can call (780)-492-2615. This office is independent of the researchers.

Sincerely,

Chandu Sadasivan and Dr. Andrew Cave Department of Family Medicine University of Alberta