

Help Identify, Predict and Prevent Celiac Disease

The MGHfC Center for Celiac Research and the Celiac Program at Harvard Medical School have launched a research study to understand the many factors that contribute to the development of celiac disease. Read this handout to learn how you can get involved.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE STUDY?

The Celiac Disease Genomic Environmental Microbiome and Metabolic Study (CDGEMM) is a prospective, observational and multi-center study that follows infants until they reach five years of age. Our team considers your child's genetic makeup, environmental conditions, gut microbiome (bacteria that live normally in the intestines) and more. Our goal is to identify how these factors contribute to disease development so that, in the future, we may be able to predict who will develop celiac disease before it happens.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

We are enrolling infants under 6 months of age who have a first-degree relative (mother, father or sibling) diagnosed with celiac disease. The risk of developing celiac disease is increased (8-15%) in this specific population as compared to the general population (1%). If you are currently pregnant and your soon-to-be infant will fit these criteria, you can even begin the enrollment process before birth!

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Each time blood is drawn, we will check your child's blood for specific markers of celiac disease. We will share these results with you. If your child is found to have celiac disease, he or she will benefit from early diagnosis and treatment. Other complications associated with the disease can be prevented if diagnosis is made early. We will also perform genetic testing to determine if your child has the genes compatible with celiac disease. We will share this information with you, too, so that you will have a better sense of your child's risk of disease development.



WHAT IS INVOLVED?

- We will collect blood and stool samples from your child throughout the study.
- You will keep a diary of your infant's antibiotic use and dietary history for the first year of life.
- You will answer questions about your infant's medical and social history approximately every six months.
- Forms can be completed securely online.
- Study visits can be conducted at the center where you enroll or at your child's pediatrician's office.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Visit our website at www.CDGEMM.org to learn more about the CDGEMM study and our sites across the United States and Italy.

Email us at CDGEMM@mgh.harvard.edu to inquire about enrollment.