



ASCEND

A Study of Cardiovascular Events in Diabetes



Do you have diabetes and are you interested in research?

Are you over the age of 40?

People with diabetes are at slightly higher risk of circulatory problems (such as heart attacks and strokes) than people who do not have diabetes. ASCEND is a large, national study being coordinated by the University of Oxford supported by the British Heart Foundation which is investigating treatments to prevent the development of circulatory problems in people with diabetes.

If you have not had heart disease (e.g. heart attack or angina) or a stroke (or a TIA or "mini-stroke"), then ASCEND could be suitable for you.

We are assessing the benefit of aspirin and omega-3 fatty acids ("fish oils") in people with diabetes who do not have circulatory problems, to see if they can reduce the development of such problems.

There is very good evidence to support the use of aspirin in people who already have circulatory problems, but at present, there is insufficient evidence to support its routine use in people without circulatory problems. Some doctors use aspirin in people with diabetes without circulatory problems because – as with many things in medicine – it is what they *think* is the best thing to do. Since aspirin occasionally causes problems with bleeding, we would like to provide the evidence so that they can *know* whether or not it is the right thing to do.

ASCEND is also assessing the benefit of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation in people with diabetes without circulatory problems, to see if they prevent the development of such problems.

We are planning to recruit 10,000 people into ASCEND, and with your help we can provide reliable answers to these important questions.

Fold

Moisten, Fold and Seal

Further details are available on our website (www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk/ascend) or you can speak to a member of the study team by calling (Freefone) 0800 585323.

If you are interested in taking part, please complete the form below with your details, and we will send you further information. We will not pass your details on to anybody else. Thank you very much for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Armitage

Louise Bowman

ASCEND Study Coordinators

Please use capital letters and write clearly.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Title | Sex M / F |
| Name | |
| Date of birth | |
| Address | |
| Postcode | |
| GP Name | |
| GP Surgery | |

Please fold and seal this completed form, and then return it to:

ASCEND, CTSU, Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus,
Roosevelt Drive, Headington, OXFORD OX3 7LF

It is Freepost, so there is no need to affix a stamp.

Moisten, Fold and Seal

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ASCEND
Freepost RLJJ-TKES-SURB
Clinical Trial Service Unit
Richard Doll Building
Old Road Campus
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