

AND. Rare Autoimmune Neurological Disease

NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases study project

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Summary

A person's immune system can go wrong and attack the brain or spinal cord or nerves. This is called an "autoimmune disease". This may lead to difficulties with memory, vision, mobility, sensation, hearing and so on. Many of these autoimmune diseases of the brain and nerves are rare, affecting a few individuals, but taken together they cause a significant national burden of disability, loss of income and opportunity and strain on the health service. Because they are rare, it is not possible for one doctor or hospital to see enough patients to make a useful study of the condition, or test a treatment. So, we propose that the doctors specializing in autoimmune diseases of the brain or nerves join together in a network across England, and invite suitable patients to take part in this project as part of the NIHR BioResource – Rare Diseases study. Consenting patients can then be contacted by the BioResource with invitations to participate in other studies, including clinical trials.

Recruitment Criteria

Inclusion

Any patient with a rare neuroimmunological disease, able to give consent and donate a blood sample.