

Duke Asthma, Allergy and Airway Center

Consent for Methacholine Challenge Test

Procedure

The purpose of the inhaled bronchial provocation challenge test using methacholine is to determine how responsive or irritable your airways or those of your child are and to determine the severity of any asthma.

You will be asked to inhale a mist that contains different concentrations of methacholine. The mist is produced by a device called a nebulizer and you inhale the mist through a mouthpiece. Before the test begins and after each period of inhalation, you will be asked to blow forcefully into a spirometer which is in a booth-sized chamber.

The test will take approximately 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Discomforts and Risks

The test does not cause an asthma attack, but the inhalation of methacholine aerosol may be associated with mild shortness of breath, cough, chest tightness, wheezing, or headache. Many patients do not have any symptoms at all. In our experience when these symptoms do occur, they are mild, last only a few minutes, and disappears following the inhalation of a bronchodilator medication, which we will administer. The test is carried out in such a way that the danger of a severe asthmatic reaction is minimized; however, there is still a very small possibility of severe bronchospasm. If this occurs, you will be immediately treated with asthma medications and oxygen.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the above information and understand the purpose of the test and the associated risks. With this knowledge, I agree to have this test performed on me.

Patient or Guardian _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Medical Record Number _____