

Passive Heating for Parkinson's Disease and Healthy Older Adults

Research team contacts

Principal Researcher:	Andrew Hunt	ap.hunt@qut.edu.au	07 3138 5855
Associate Researcher:	Graham Kerr	g.kerr@qut.edu.au	07 3138 6303
Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)			

What is the purpose of the research?

The purpose of this research is to measure the effect of body heating on protein levels and muscle function in both Parkinson's patients and healthy participants.

Are you looking for people like me?

The research team is looking for 10 people with Parkinson's Disease and 10 healthy people of a similar age. You must be independently living in the community and able to walk without any aids. Further eligibility criteria may apply after a screening assessment.

What will you ask me to do?

Your voluntary participation will involve **three sessions**; including one screening and familiarisation session (up to 2 hours in duration) and two test sessions (up to 4 hours each).

The screening and familiarization session will involve you meeting members of the research team and completing several clinical questionnaires to ensure you are eligible to participate in the study. After this, the tests and procedures of the test sessions will be explained and shown to you.

Test sessions will involve wearing a fabric suit that is lined with small tubes that water can flow through. For the test you will be seated in a recliner and your body temperature will be increased by adjusting the temperature of water being pumped through the suit. In a control test session, water flowing through the suit will be 34°C. For the body heating test session the water temperature will be 50°C. Body temperature will be increased to 38.0-38.5°C and then be held at this level for a further 60 minutes. At the end of the session cool water will flow through the suit to return your body temperature to normal levels. Before and after the test sessions, a blood sample and urine sample will be collected from you and you will be asked to perform several functional and strength based tests.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?

The research team has identified several minor risks in relation to participating in this study, including risks of discomfort due to test measures or conditions, injury sustained from measurement equipment or tests, and inconvenience due to the required time commitment. Full details of these risks, and the strategies that are in place to manage these risks, will be provided to you before you choose whether or not to participate so that you may make an informed decision. If you do agree to participate you can withdraw from participation in the research project at any time without comment or penalty.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?

As a participant you may experience improved muscular performance through heat therapy, while the potential for further research to develop therapeutic interventions may benefit the wider community of Parkinson's patients.

Will I be compensated for my time?

No, but the research team will reimburse you for out-of-pocket expenses associated with parking at the university and costs for transportation.

I am interested – what should I do next?

If you are interested in participating please contact the research team (above) for details of the next step. You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 1700000922