



Understanding movement problems of ataxic gait.

Ataxia is a neurological condition that causes un-coordinated movement which affects activities of daily living, in particular walking. Physiotherapy is one way of managing this problem but there is no one treatment that has been proven to be the most effective.

There is a strong need to develop effective physiotherapy treatments. To do this a better understanding of the causes of uncoordinated movement and why people with ataxia have difficulty with walking, need to be established.

The overall aim of this study is to obtain the first detailed analysis of walking for people with ataxia. This will enable us to pinpoint what causes the difficulty with walking which, in future, will allow us to develop more effective treatments.

This study is looking for people with ataxia and difficulty with walking within the Greater Manchester area. You must be over 18 years of age, able to walk 10m independently or with a walking aid, and able to stand independently for 20 seconds.

What will happen if you take part?

If you agree to take part, you will attend the Podiatry Clinic at the University of Salford for half a day. We will arrange the appointment at your convenience and your travel expenses will be reimbursed.

Your walking will be measured using gait assessment equipment that is widely used for this type of research. Some additional clinical tests will be performed to establish the severity of your ataxia-none of these tests are invasive.

If you would like to take part in this study and require more information about the details of the tests please contact:

Anita Watson
School of Health, Sport and Rehabilitation Sciences
Directorate of Sport, Exercise and Physiotherapy
University of Salford
Salford
M6 6PU

Telephone: 0161 295 5607
E-mail: a.watson@salford.ac.uk