



Professor Chinnery (University of Newcastle) is researching ataxias due to mitochondrial disorders. He is currently studying two conditions and is looking for volunteers for both.

a) A rare form of ataxia caused by a mutation in the mitochondrial gene POLG. If you have tested negative for all forms of inherited ataxias and your neurologist has found that you have a peripheral neuropathy present (which can only be found by electrical test called electrophysiology) then it may be possible to test for this form of ataxia.

b) Ataxia due to CoQ10 deficiency - a treatable form of ataxia. This is a form of ataxia that responds well to CoQ10 tablets. The prevalence of this form of ataxia is not known, but a study in the US suggests that 10% of people with an unidentified form of ataxia have this condition. Testing for this condition involves having a muscle biopsy.

If you would like to be tested for either of these conditions you would need to ask your neurologist to contact Prof Chinnery (Department of Neurology, Medical School, University of Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Email Patrick.chinnery@nuth.nhs.uk)

For more support or information please contact: Ataxia UK, Winchester House, Kennington Park, Cranmer Road. London SW9 6EJ

Website: www.ataxia.org.uk.

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