

R054: Using linked healthcare records to identify the prevalence, characteristics and clinical outcomes of patients with Severe Eosinophilic Asthma in Northern Ireland - QUB

Severe Asthma is confirmed asthma that is poorly controlled despite maximum treatment available in primary care. This patient subgroup is difficult to diagnose and associated with significant morbidity. A proportion of patients with severe asthma have a disease subtype characterised by a raised blood eosinophil count known as Severe Eosinophilic Asthma (SEA). These patients are at increased risk of asthma attacks.

New specialist treatments which target blood eosinophils are now available and have been shown to reduce asthma attacks and improve symptoms for patients with SEA. However, there is significant inequality in access to specialist asthma care across the United Kingdom, with unacceptable variation in prevalence, frequency of exacerbations, and health outcomes across geography, age, ethnicity and socio-economic groups.

We plan to harness the unique benefits of linked Northern Ireland healthcare record data to determine the prevalence, characteristics and clinical outcomes of patients with SEA in Northern Ireland. This novel proof of concept study could lead to improved clinical outcomes and pave the way for similar linkage studies for other conditions.

Primary Objective:

- Identify the prevalence of Severe Eosinophilic Asthma in Northern Ireland

Secondary Objectives:

- Identify the characteristics of patients with Severe Eosinophilic Asthma in Northern Ireland.
- Identify the clinical outcomes of patients with Severe Eosinophilic Asthma in Northern Ireland (NI).
- Characterize the disease progression of patients with Severe Eosinophilic Asthma in Northern Ireland (NI)
- Identify variation in asthma management for patients with Severe Eosinophilic Asthma before and after a severe exacerbation