

Dear Medical Provider:

We are writing to explain the participation of your patient in the Molecular Mechanisms of Myelodysplastic Syndromes (Agent Orange MDS-Veterans Study), a genetic research project organized by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The goal of this study is to better understand the potential contribution of Agent Orange exposure to acquisition of somatic mutations in hematopoietic stem cells and subsequent development of clonal hematopoiesis and myeloid neoplasms. We will obtain blood and saliva samples from approximately 120 Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and who have been diagnosed with MDS. We will assess the extent of exposure to Agent Orange using a validated questionnaire. We will characterize the somatic mutations in these samples using a targeted sequencing panel focused on mutations in myeloid malignancies. We will compare the mutational landscape in the veterans to that of a large cohort of patients whose DNA sequencing results are already available to us.

Your patient qualifies for this study because of his/her diagnosis with MDS. Participation in this study will help us understand mutation patterns in patients with myelodysplastic syndromes who were exposed to Agent Orange during U.S. Military service.

As part of the study, participants complete a medical questionnaire and allow us to determine their level of Agent Orange exposure. The participants also agree to donate a blood and saliva sample for research. It is important to note that participants will not undergo tests or procedures that are not required as part of their routine clinical care. They will only be asked to provide an additional sample from tissue that is obtained for clinical indications. Your patient has agreed to these arrangements and will need the following to be drawn during their next scheduled visit: 30-60 cc of peripheral blood and a saliva sample. During this appointment, they will bring all required materials for collection, along with further instructions.

All information that contains personal identifiers will be held in strict confidence and will not be released without the patient's signed consent.

You can find additional information at the study website URL below:  
<http://mdsinveterans1.danafarberdev.org>. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at [David.Steensma@DFCI.harvard.edu](mailto:David.Steensma@DFCI.harvard.edu) or call 617.632.3712.

Sincerely yours,

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