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## **SNaPP study receives \$2.9 million from the Medical Research Future Fund**

A 3500-patient randomised controlled trial into the reversal of muscle relaxant drugs after general anaesthesia has received \$2.9 million from the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund.

The Sugammadex, neostigmine and postoperative pulmonary complications (SNaPP) study will be run over four years by the Department of Critical Care, Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne, and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists' (ANZCA) Clinical Trials Network (CTN).

The study's Principal Investigator, Professor Kate Leslie AO, said: "A hidden pandemic of complications after surgery is occurring in Australia and around the world. These complications lead to prolonged illness and decreased quality of life for patients and increased costs for the healthcare system. The goal of our study is to reduce the burden of these complications."

Adult patients presenting for abdominal or thoracic surgery will be recruited to the study. They will receive a general anaesthetic for their surgery that includes muscle relaxant drugs.

At the end of their surgery they will receive either neostigmine (the traditional drug) or sugammadex (a new drug which is more reliable but also more expensive) to reverse the muscle relaxant.

The patients will be followed up for lung complications (such as pneumonia) and quality of life.

This information, along with health expenditure data, will be used to determine if sugammadex is cost-effective. The results of this study will have immediate benefits for patients and the healthcare system.

"Our team at the University of Melbourne and the ANZCA CTN has a long history of successfully completing large perioperative trials" said Professor Leslie.

"With the SNaPP Study we will once again join forces with investigators and trial coordinators in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong to answer one of the most hotly debated questions in our specialty."

**For more information or to request interviews please contact ANZCA Media Manager Carolyn Jones on +61 408 259 369 or [cjones@anzca.edu.au](mailto:cjones@anzca.edu.au). Follow us on twitter @ANZCA.**