



Department of Health
Government of Western Australia



Royal Perth Hospital

Media release

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MEDIA RELEASE

New weapon in obesity fight

The battle of the bulging belly and the widening waistline is continuing at Royal Perth Hospital with researchers about to start a new drug trial.

The trial, which will involve 80 men and women, will test the drug rimonabant against a placebo to see if by stripping centimetres off the waistline it can also decrease risk of heart disease by raising the 'good cholesterol' particle, called HDL.

Prof Gerald Watts of the UWA School of Medicine & Pharmacology, based at the Royal Perth Hospital, is heading the trial.

Prof Watts said that in previous studies with rimonabant, participants lost weight and maintained this weight loss while on the drug.

"It is anticipated that you will lose weight while on the study and this may improve your blood fat levels, blood pressure and risk of diabetes," he said.

Participants would take 20mg of the weight loss drug daily, or a placebo, in combination with a lifestyle program to compare the effects on body fat metabolism.

People wanting to take part in the trial should be aged 35-65, non-smokers, not have diabetes and not be on any cholesterol lowering medications. Both men and women are suitable, however, only women who have been through menopause can take part.

If you would like to take part in the study or want more information contact:
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