

## **Under the Microscope** with Dr Fatovich

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A RPH study will investigate the rate of heart attacks in people who have been diagnosed with non-cardiac chest pain.

Clinical Associate Professor Daniel Fatovich has been awarded \$5, 000 from the Medical Research Foundation for his study into cardiac event rates.

Dr Fatovich said ten per cent of attendances at RPH Emergency Department were people suffering from chest pain and he would investigate whether any of the people sent home from the Emergency Department subsequently suffered a heart attack.

“The aim is to determine the proportion of heart attacks that are not diagnosed on the first visit to the Emergency Department,” Dr Fatovich said.

“Around the world two to five per cent of heart attacks are not diagnosed straight away and I am unaware of any Australian study like this to determine our missed cardiac event rates.”

The grant will enable Dr Fatovich to access the data linkage system, which can be used to track patients who are discharged after suffering from chest pain.

“By looking at the data we hope to develop a list of features that may be a common theme that increases the risk of a cardiac event.”

“The main aim is to make things better for patients – the more we learn from this study the more we can help improve the system to avoid missing a cardiac diagnosis.”

It will take about a year to complete the study and Dr Fatovich will receive assistance from Dr Jenny Love, Dr Joseph Ng and Professor Grant Waterer.