



Peter's Story

"I trusted the doctors at the centre so much, I told my GP I hardly needed him anymore!"

In 2002, I quit my job to raise my children, and found myself with some extra time on my hands. I had started looking around for things to do as a dad's day off when my GP got in touch. Barts was looking for volunteers for an asthma clinical trial at the **William Harvey Research Centre**. Participating meant I could pick a day when my children were in nursery to come, have the appointment, and then have the rest of the day out in London.



Every experience I've had with the centre has been incredible. The staff are very welcoming and cared for me as if I were part of their own family. The amount of attention I received during, and even after the trial, was far above what I could receive from my regular GP's office. Even the most minor issues got the utmost treatment and I had frequent check-ins with the doctors.

Not only did the doctors and nurses stay on top of my health, but they were also invested in my personal life and how I was faring as a whole person, not just as a patient. They took every part of my lifestyle into account when deciding the best treatment options for me, not just other medications. It was obvious they cared deeply about my personal endeavours between appointments, sometimes even displaying more interest than my own family!

There is always some level of inherent risk in doing a clinical trial. However, that risk is far outweighed by the good that comes out of them for other people, as well as the gold-star treatment and care you receive during the trial. The doctors and nurses are extremely thorough and detailed, making sure everything is documented well and the safety of patients is their first priority.

Having that attention to detail meant a lot to me. My father recently passed from COVID-19. We suffered from the same lung conditions, and it feels as if the care I received made the difference between life and death. The minute I felt any kind of asthma attack or lung problem starting, the staff were right there to bring me a rescue pack or get me in for a check-up. I have felt so secure in my health because of these doctors. I trusted the doctors at the centre so much, I told my GP I hardly needed him anymore!

The latest trial I participated in was a new injection treatment for asthma, that worked wonderfully. It almost completely eradicated my asthma. Though I was quite disappointed that following the conclusion of the trial I hadn't been approved to continue on the medication, the clinical director and the other doctors worked to find a treatment that would prevent my condition from getting worse again. I'm happy to report that my health has kept stable. Since beginning that trial, my quality of life has improved substantially. I could barely make it up the stairs before, and now I'm considering going to the gym for a run!