

Dear Parent,

We are writing to inform you of a study being conducted by doctors and staff in the departments of Psychology, Psychiatry, Eating Disorders, Adolescent Medicine, and Gastroenterology at BC Children's Hospital. This study is looking at the characteristics of youth presenting with eating problems and/or physical symptoms that interfere with their lives. More specifically, some youth have difficulties with eating but do not have body image concerns. Disruption to normal eating can be related to physical symptoms (e.g., stomach pain, nausea), or may be related to other concerns that get in the way of eating. Individuals who experience confusing gastrointestinal physical symptoms also have impacts on their day-to-day functioning, and we are looking to understand the overlap between the experiences of these youth.

The research team is trying to determine how three groups of children and youth are different and similar: (1) children and youth who have eating difficulties but do not have body image concerns, and who have a diagnosis of avoidant restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID), (2) children and youth who have a diagnosis of somatic symptom and related disorders (SSRD) with gastrointestinal symptoms, and (3) children and youth who do not have either diagnosis.

You are invited to participate in this study if **your child is between the ages of 4-18 years, is generally healthy, and does not have a diagnosis of ARFID or SSRD**. If you have more than one child that meets these criteria, please choose *one* child to participate with you.

Participating in this study involves filling out five questionnaires online, which is expected to take about 15-20 minutes. To participate in this study, please go to the following link:

<https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=T9JKATAPYX>

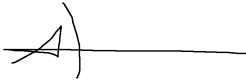
You will be asked to indicate which group you are a part of, **please select group C**.

For parents of youth aged 8 years and older: both you and your child will be asked to provide your permission to participate (called "consent/assent forms"). On these forms, you and your child will decide which of you will fill out the questionnaires. It could be parent only, youth only, or both.

For parents of children aged 4-7 years: only the parent is asked to provide their permission to participate and fill out the questionnaires.

Participation in the study is voluntary and anonymous. Please forward this study information to any parents you know who may be interested in participating. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Jennifer Coelho at 604-875-2345x4986. Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Dr Amrit Dhariwal
Psychologist
BC Children's Hospital



Dr. Katelynn Boerner
Postdoctoral Fellow
UBC/BC Children's Hospital



Dr. Jennifer Coelho
Psychologist
BC Children's Hospital

QR code to access study:

