SEVERE ASTHMA AND THE ROLE OF THE EOSINOPHIL

**THE ROLE OF EOSINOPHILS**

Not all asthma is the same:
Severe asthma can have a number of underlying causes, including eosinophilic inflammation.

Studies suggest approximately 60% of severe asthma patients may have eosinophilic airway inflammation.

Eosinophils are a type of white blood cell.
They are believed to play a role in protecting the body by increasing in number to defend the body against parasites and also accumulate wherever allergic reactions take place.

Eosinophils play a role in the development of asthma. In people with asthma, inflammatory mediators released from the eosinophil cause inflammation in the lungs, making it difficult to breathe and increasing the risk of an exacerbation.

Eosinophils are primarily regulated by the signalling protein Interleukin-5 (IL-5), which binds to its receptor on the surface of eosinophils.

**References**


Date of preparation: October 2015
Job code: RF/NLA/0032/15d