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scientists say a new pill could revolutionise asthma treatment for hundreds of thousands of people in Britain. 1400 people die every year as a result of the condition. Our reporter Katie Spencer is here. What is this pill? It is very early at the moment but this would be a pill taken twice a day. Scientists are getting very excited at the moment because we have had the results of a small-scale study that has taken place at Leicester University. 60 patients were involved. 32 bit feeble, 32-bit drugs, and the results were very

impressive. A big drop in symptoms, improvement on -- in one function and less inflammation. One person who took part and got to take the pill described how within a couple of days of taking this drug, their symptoms completely improved, they struggled for 15 years with suffering from asthma and it seems overnight that they could -- it made a real difference. It blocks inflammatory cells from moving from the blood into the walls of the airways. It all those speeds up the repair of the linings of the airways. Given that the UK has one of the highest rates of asthma in the world, the potential for this is huge. It is thought there are more than half a million Britons who suffer from moderate or severe asthma, around 1,400 people die each year as a result of the condition. Scientists think the drug could benefit at least half of sufferers, so 250,000 people potentially could

stand to benefit from this. It is very early days. This is a concept study at the moment. We still need to see more tests and it would need to be approved, but Professor Chris Biederman, one of the authors of this report, says that even though it is at an early stage, the potential does seem to be there. We need to be cautious with the number of patients tested, but we already know that similar studies that have shown the same degree of reduction and inflammation has led to a halving in the number of asthma attacks and the number of admissions to hospital. We could have some confidence that this is likely to be beneficial in later studies. Later studies have started to address exactly that question. We should see the results of that trial by 2018, potentially because it isn't that far off, we could see the drug being prescribed by doctors in two to three years. Thank you. Chicago's police chief says the force will review training