New pill could dramatically reduce asthma attacks in just 12 weeks

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* **BY** RECORD REPORTER

THE new pill saw patients suffering with severe asthma reduce lung inflammation by five times during the trial.

INHALERS could soon be a thing of the past as British scientists have developed a pill that is said to dramatically reduce the severity of asthma attacks.

It is thought this new twice-a-day pill - the first in almost 20 years - could revolutionise the way the respiratory disease is treated.

In trials, participants using the pill saw their asthma become five times less severe within just three months.

Asthma affects around 4.3 million adults and 1.1 million [children](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/all-about/children) in Britain.

Professor Chris Brightling, of the University of Leicester, said: “This new drug could be a game changer for future treatment of asthma.”

This new pill, named Fevipiprant, is aimed at those suffering from severe asthma, and is currently in late stage clinical trials, according to ClinTrials.gov.

Professor Brightling ran the trial with 61 patients. One group was given a 225mg dose twice a day for 12 weeks and the other a placebo. This was on top of any medications patients were currently taking.

The study, which was published in The Lancet Respiratory [Medicine](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/all-about/medicines), analysed the inflammation of white blood cells in the lungs - which rose with the severity of asthma.

Those with severe asthma have a reading of around five per cent inflammation, while someone without the disease has an average of less than one per cent.

Those with severe asthma saw their reading drop from 5.4 per cent average to 1.1 per cent average over the 12-week trial.

Three people die every day because of asthma attacks and research shows that two thirds of asthma deaths are preventable, according to Asthma UK.

Prof Brightling, who led the study at the Glenfield Hospital in Leicester, said: “A unique feature of this study was how it included measurements of symptoms, lung function using breathing tests, sampling of the airway wall and CT scans of the chest to give a complete picture of how the new drug works.

“Most treatments might improve some of these features of disease, but with Fevipiprant improvements were seen with all of the types of tests.

“We already know that using treatments to target eosinophilic airway inflammation can substantially reduce asthma attacks.

“This new treatment, Fevipiprant, could likewise help to stop preventable asthma attacks, reduce hospital admissions and improve day-to-day symptoms- making it a ‘game changer’ for future treatment.”