



## Aspartame is focus of FSA study

The Food Standards Agency is looking for volunteers to take part in a study that will investigate symptoms reportedly caused by the artificial sweetener aspartame. The double blind placebo controlled study will take place at the University of Hull.

Anecdotally, people have reported a variety of symptoms including upset stomachs, headaches and behavioural problems. The Agency says there are no general concerns about the safety of aspartame, but if some people are indeed experiencing symptoms genuinely triggered by aspartame, it is important to understand what is happening. There is no firm evidence suggesting that the symptoms reported are linked to allergy.

The results are expected early in 2011 and the research could be used to inform the design and feasibility of a larger scale European study.

Potential volunteers are asked to email the Agency at [aspartame@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:aspartame@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

For further information go to:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2009/jun/aspartame>