



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

DAN Rebreather Study 2020 - Caustic Cocktail

IRB #025-20-20 (expiry: 2021-08-05)

CONCISE SUMMARY

This survey aims to collect data from rebreather divers regarding their experiences with caustic cocktail(s) while diving. You qualify for participation in this study if you are a certified rebreather diver and you have experienced a caustic cocktail or dived with someone who experienced a caustic cocktail.

There are no individual benefits and no currently foreseeable risks to you in participating in this study. If you are interested in learning more about the study, please continue reading and review the following pages carefully before agreeing to participate.

INTRODUCTION

You are invited to complete a short survey about rebreather diving. The study is entirely sponsored by DAN.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to collect information from adult rebreather divers and their experiences with a “Caustic Cocktail”.

BACKGROUND

When water mixes with the carbon-dioxide absorbent in rebreathers, e.g. due to a leak in the unit, a solution of caustic soda is produced. When a diver ingests this poisonous mixture, known as a “Caustic Cocktail”, it is important to provide appropriate first aid. It is uncertain how common suffering a caustic cocktail is among certified rebreather divers, or what immediate first-aid treatments are being employed. This survey will gather information on rebreather divers and their diving experience, including whether they have suffered a caustic cocktail event and how it was treated.

HOW THE STUDY WORKS

Certified rebreather divers aged 18 years or older at the time of completing the survey are invited to participate. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online questionnaire about your rebreather diving habits and history. The questionnaire should not take longer than 5 minutes to complete. DAN anticipates collecting responses from 250 individual rebreather divers. The questions in the online survey marked with an (*) are mandatory questions and cannot be skipped.

BENEFITS TO YOU

There are no direct benefits to you participating in the study. However, the results of this survey may benefit future rebreather divers by providing information that could reduce the risk of suffering a caustic cocktail or improve first-aid treatment.

WITHDRAWALS

You may refuse to participate or withdraw from this study at any time while taking the survey without penalty. Once you have completed the survey, there will be no identifying link between you and your response, so it will not be possible to identify and remove your data from the study once your response has been submitted.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The survey will be completely anonymous. We will not collect any identifiable information from you and will ensure that no information you provide could be linked back to you. DAN will abide by Federal privacy regulations that provide safeguards for privacy and secured and authorized access of data. Research records are maintained according to confidentiality requirements. The survey data will be destroyed within five years or two years after the study is completed, whichever is longer. Authorized reviewers such as representatives from the DAN institutional review board (IRB) may examine the deidentified data for compliance with ethical and human subject protection standards. Thus, complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

YOUR RIGHTS, RISKS, AND COMPENSATION

It is necessary that you read and understand several general principles that apply to everyone who takes part in this study:

1. Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary. You may choose not to be in the study, or, if you agree to be in the study, you may withdraw from the study at any time before completing the questionnaire. If you withdraw from the study, no new data about you will be collected for study purposes. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not involve any penalty.
2. There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you. The survey questionnaire is anonymous, and research records are maintained according to confidentiality requirements.
3. There will be no charge to you for taking part in this study. You will not receive any monetary compensation for participation. The study is entirely being sponsored by Divers Alert Network.

QUESTIONS

Should you have any specific questions regarding this research study, you are urged to contact Dr. Frauke Tillmans in writing at causticcocktail@DAN.org.

Information concerning the rights of subjects in research can be obtained from the DAN Institutional Review Board at irb@DAN.org.