



Hornsby Advocate

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press clip



Chris Jackson of Mt Colah is conducting some revolutionary research. Picture: DAVE SWIFT

Hope for burns

THEY say the simple things in life are the best.

That may end up the case with research under way at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Researchers are testing the effectiveness of a substance named activated protein C in treating burns patients.

The protein naturally occurs in the body and in the current trial is simply sprayed directly onto a patient's burn.

This is the only research of its kind in the world, and

the trial has already indicated such success that researchers are hoping a federal government grant will enable them to test the protein on burns patients in other Sydney hospitals.

The research is being led by Associate Professor Chris Jackson, of Mt Colah, who said his team decided to test the activated protein C after animal and other laboratory studies indicated its potential.

"The more severe the burn the lower the level of APC in the body," Prof Jackson said. "The reason

why it drops when a person is burned is because the APC is used up. We believe that's at least partly because it's used for healing."

APC works in three ways: by growing new blood vessels, regrowing the skin at the burn, and reducing inflammation.

The Kolling Institute trial hopes to show that the use of APC speeds up burn and wound healing, with less scarring. So far Prof Jackson said six Royal North Shore Hospital burns patients had been successfully treated with APC.