Participant Information Sheet

Project Title: Communicating Information About Illness and Treatment

Principal Investigator: Professor Keith Petrie (Department of Psychological Medicine, The University of Auckland)

Co-Investigator: Professor Nicola Dalbeth (Department of Medicine, The University of Auckland)

Student Researcher: PhD in Health Psychology Candidate Alina Krasnoryadtseva (Department of Psychological Medicine, The University of Auckland).

The PhD candidate is supervised by Professor Keith Petrie and Professor Nicola Dalbeth.

About This Study

You are invited to take part in research aiming to explore better ways of presenting information about illness and treatment.

In this study, we are looking at how information about one illness – gout could be better presented to improve illness and treatment understanding in the general public and patients. For this purpose, we have developed three versions of an educational booklet on gout and would like to know if any material is better than the other. During the study, you will see only one version of the brochure. At the end of your visit, we will show you the different versions of the material, and you will have time to ask any questions about the study.

Even though you may not know much about gout, we are interested in what you as a member of the general public think. The data we collect will inform future research and help us improve educational materials for patients and their family members.

You can take part in this study if:

1) you are between 18 and 60 years old;
2) you have normal vision OR wear contact lenses OR wear glasses but do not require glasses to read a standard font (14pt) from a computer screen which is about 50 cm away;
3) you are able to read a brief text and fill out a questionnaire in English;
4) you have not been diagnosed with gout.

The participation in this research is voluntary, and you can withdraw at any point throughout the study without giving a reason. There are no particular risks associated with taking part in this research.
The study is funded through the University of Auckland Postgraduate Research Student Support. The project will continue for up to 9 months.

**What Will My Participation Involve?**

If you choose to participate, you will be invited to attend a one-off session at the University of Auckland Clinical Research Centre in Grafton.

At the lab, we will ask you to read a short piece of text about gout and fill-out a questionnaire. During the reading time, the movements of your eyes will be recorded using a contactless screen-mounted eye tracker. The eye tracker we will use for this study will only record numerical information (e.g., time spent looking at a particular area of the screen). It means there will be no video recording of your eyes or any other type of audio/video recording. No eye-tracking data will be recorded after you finished reading the text.

Overall, the session should take about 40 minutes of your time. If you choose to participate, after filling out the survey, you will receive one $20 Countdown shopping voucher as a thank you for your time. The gift will apply even if you choose to withdraw during the project.

You will be able to request a summary of the study results by stating it in the Consent Form.

If you are a student of the researchers, we give our assurance that your participation or non-participation in this study will have no effect on your grades or relationship with the University and that you may contact your academic head should you feel that this assurance has not been met.

**Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future use**

The student researcher will collect the data from the eye tracker and the paper survey and enter it into a secure electronic database in the Department of Psychological Medicine. All research data will be stored securely for a minimum of 6 years in the Department of Medicine. After the minimum storage time has elapsed, the data will be destroyed.

**Right To Withdraw From Participation**

You have the right to withdraw from participation at any time without giving a reason. Once you have completed the study and left the lab, you will not be able to withdraw your information as we will not be able to identify your data in our dataset.

**Anonymity and Confidentiality**

No personal information is collected in this study (for example, your full name or date of birth). The information you share with us will remain confidential to the research team. The data we collect during the study will be stored under a unique participant code which will not be associated with your name or any other information that can help identify you. This means, once you have completed the study, we will not be able to trace the data you provided back to you.
The results of this research will be disseminated through a publication in a scientific journal, and this will be done in a way that does not identify you.

Contact Details and Approval

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For any concerns regarding ethical issues you may contact the Chair, the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, Office of Strategy Research and Integrity, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711.
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Approved by the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee on 14/08/2019 for three years, Reference Number 023517