PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Title of Project: Effect of refractive error on involuntary eye movements
Researchers: Steven Dakin, Philip Turnbull & Soheil Mohammadpour

Researched Introduction
Soheil Mohammadpour I am an optometrist and a PhD student at the School of Optometry and Vision Science at The University of Auckland. This project is a part of my PhD.
Steven Dakin I am a professor at the University of Auckland, supervising Soheil’s project.
Phil Turnbull I am a lecturer at the University of Auckland, working on Soheil’s project.

This Project
Rationale: We are developing more reliable eye tests based not on what the patient says they see, but on how their eyes move.
Aims: We will examine how “nearsightedness” or “farsightedness”, changes eye movements made in response to moving patterns. To do this we will be measuring eye movements in people wearing contact lenses to temporarily make them nearsighted or longsighted.
Duration: The project will run for 24 months.
Funding: The work is funded by the School of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of Auckland.

Invitation to Participate
Voluntary participation: Your participation is voluntary and you may decline to participate without penalty.

Compensation
To thank participants for their contribution to the research, each will receive a $20 Countdown voucher.

Project Procedure
If you choose to take part in our study, you will be asked to make a 60-90min visit to the University of Auckland eye clinic at Grafton. We will first check the prescription of your glasses or contact lenses (if you wear any) using standard optometry tests (that do not involve any eye drops). After the screening, we will fit contact lenses onto one of your eyes, and you watch a series of moving patterns on a screen for less than 6 minutes. After removing the contact lens and a rest, we will put a new contact lens on the same eye and repeat the test. We might do this procedure (refit contact lens, retest vision) up to seven times. The whole session would take 60-90 minutes (with breaks). Fitting contact lenses is a standard optometry task and will be done by a qualified optometrist.

Eligibility
You are eligible to participate if you
-are 18 years old or over
-you have a normal vision or corrected to normal vision with glasses/contact lenses

You are not eligible to participate if you
-have glasses/contact lens prescription greater than -5.00DS or +3.00DS spherical equivalent
- have astigmatism greater than 1.00DC
- have any eye disease and any underlying ocular pathology or previous history of ocular surgery or any visual condition that might affect your eye movements, such as "lazy eye" (amblyopia) or an eye turn/"squint" (strabismus).
- have any neurodevelopmental condition (e.g., photosensitive epilepsy) or neuropsychiatric condition (e.g. schizophrenia).

Risks
Note that because we are interested in the limits of your performance, the task will get difficult and we may measure your performance using quite a few images. However the images you will be presented with will not contain stressful or emotional material, and the study involves no deception. Furthermore, the images are presented in a safe way and the risks you incur in taking part are similar to those you encounter sitting watching television. Probably the worst aspect of participation is that the task can seem repetitive. However, you will be given regular breaks and you can be assured your participation helps us further our research. For participants unaccustomed to wearing contact lenses it is possible that you will find wearing lenses uncomfortable and that this can occasionally cause headache. Should this happen you will be free to take a break and then continue or alternatively you are free (as is always the case) to simply to withdraw from testing entirely.

Incidental findings
Incidental findings: Although we will not be conducting a full eye examination as part of this study, we may identify abnormalities with your eyes such as uncorrected myopia or dry eye. If we do find anything like this we will tell you and if you wish you may be treated in the appropriate manner by the qualified optometrists involved in the study, either directly or by referral for further examination, opinions, or treatment as required. If you do not wish to know about this type of finding, please do not participate.

Benefits
There are no individual benefits to research participants as a result of taking part in this research.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and will bear no penalties or loss of benefits with regard to the services provided to you by the University of Auckland Optometry Clinic. Neither will participation have any effect on your grades if you are a student at The University of Auckland, not any effect on your academic standing if you are an employee of the University of Auckland. These assurances are given to you on behalf of the School of optometry and Vision Science by its Clinic Director, Dr Geraint Phillips.

Data Storage, Retention, Destruction and Future Use

How: We will store test results on a password-protected university computer.
Where: The data will be stored on that machine and on secure backup devices.
How long: The data will be stored for a minimum of six (6) years.
Distribution: De-identified data will be analysed and presented in a PhD thesis, within articles published in academic journals, at conferences and will be shared publically through an online repository.

Right to Withdraw from Participation
You have the right to withdraw from the testing at any time during or following a session without giving a reason. Furthermore, you can withdraw your data up to 3 months after testing.

Anonymity and Confidentiality
Any results of the experiment or information provided by you will be published in a way to ensure your anonymity. Your participation and any information provided by you may be withdrawn at any time without consequence. If you are a student of the University, withdrawal of your information will have no effect on your grades. A copy of the research findings will be made available to you, if you wish.
Problems Any problems, please contact the Principal Investigator (address below), or, if you are not satisfied with their response, you can take this to the Research contact for the School of Optometry & Vision Science (Ehsan Vaghefi; address below) or the Associate Dean Research (Andrew Shelling; address below).

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For any concerns regarding ethical issues you may contact the Chair, the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, at the University of Auckland, Research Office, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Telephone 09 373-7599 ext. 83711.  
Email: ro-ethics@auckland.ac.nz

Thank you for giving us your time to consider participating in this project. If you have any further questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE ON 01/04/2019  
FOR THREE YEARS. REFERENCE NUMBER 022625.