PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Project: Ocular tissue stretch in myopia

Name of Researchers: John Phillips, PhD *(Principal Investigator)*  
Safal Khanal, OD *(Co-Investigator)*  
Cassandra Ang *(Student researcher)*  
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Dae Hyun Jin *(Student researcher)*  
Cindy Cheakhun *(Student researcher)*  

To Participants

You are invited to participate in our study investigating the effect of myopia (short-sight) on the degree of stretching of the tissues at the back of the eye which include the light-sensitive retina and its blood supply, the choroid. Tissue stretch increases the risk of ocular pathology (e.g. retinal detachment) but there are currently no methods for directly measuring the degree of tissue stretch in an individual eye. This study uses Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) to measure the geometry (shape) and thickness of the retina and choroid in people with varying degrees of myopia.

You are eligible to participate if you

- are between 18-35 years old
- are in good general health
- wear glasses or contact lenses
- have myopia, especially higher levels of myopia, e.g. greater than -4.00 Dioptres

You are not eligible to participate if you

- have a previous history of ocular surgery or trauma

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to come to the clinic on one occasion for approximately 30 minutes duration. After establishing your eligibility (above), standard, non-contact, clinical equipment will be used to measure your refractive error (glasses prescription) and the size of your eye. Optical Coherence Topography (OCT) images of your eyes will then be taken. OCT is a non-contact clinical instrument which uses infrared light to rapidly capture high-resolution 3D images of the back of the eyes. All examinations and measurements will be performed at the School of Optometry and Vision Science (SOVS) at the University of Auckland in Grafton.

Is there any cost to the participants?
Taking part in the study will not cost you anything, apart from a certain amount of time.
Benefits
There are no individual benefits to participants as a result of taking part in this research, although you can receive a copy of the OCT scan of the back of your eyes, for your interest.

Risks
Incidental findings: While we will not be conducting a full eye examination during the course of this research, we may identify abnormalities or issues with your eyes. In the event that a condition which is assessed to be a clinical abnormality is detected, you will be informed of this and will be advised to make an appointment for you to have a comprehensive eye examination. You should be aware that once you have been informed that a clinical abnormality has been detected through examination, this could affect your ability to obtain insurance whether or not you take the matter further. If you do not wish to know about this type of finding, please do not participate.

Adverse events: Should any adverse event occur, fully qualified optometrists are available in the University Optometry Clinic, where the research is being conducted, who will deal with any adverse effects following standard protocols.

Data storage/retention/destruction/future use
All data collected as part of this study will be stored securely; paper records will be stored in locked filing cabinets and electronic data will be stored in password protected computers, backed up by a server, accessible only by the named investigators. All data, including signed Consent Forms, will be stored for a minimum of 6 years and then destroyed using appropriate confidential document destruction services. The results of this study and information provided by you will only be published in a way that ensures your anonymity is maintained.

Right to Withdraw from Participation
Participation in this study is entirely voluntary (your choice). You also have the right to withdraw yourself or any data collected as part of the study, without giving a reason, until your visit is complete. Participation, non-participation or withdrawal from the study will not affect any benefits with regard to the services provided to you by the University of Auckland Optometry Clinic. The Academic Director has given assurance that for students, participation, non-participation or withdrawal from the study will have no effect on your grades or standing at The University of Auckland.

Consent to Participate
We will ask you to sign a consent form (attached) to confirm your agreement to participate. You are also entitled to receive a copy of your OCT scans. If you wish to receive a copy, please indicate this on the consent form and provide a valid email address where they can be sent.

Accident Compensation
In the unlikely event of a physical injury as a result of participation in this study, you may be covered by ACC under the Accident Compensation Act 2001. ACC cover is not automatic and your case will need to be assessed by ACC according to the Accident Compensation Act 2001. If your claim is accepted by ACC, you still might not get any compensation. This depends on a number of factors such as whether you are an earner or non-earner. ACC usually provides only partial reimbursement of costs and expenses and there may be no lump sum compensation payable. There is no cover for mental injury unless it is a result of physical injury. If you have ACC cover, generally this will affect your right to sue the investigators. If you have any questions about ACC, contact your nearest ACC office or the principal investigator.
Thank you for giving us your time to consider your participation. If you have any further questions about this project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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If you have any concerns of an ethical nature you may contact the Chair of The University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. Phone: 09 373-7599 ext. 83711; Email: humanethics@auckland.ac.nz

**APPROVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND HUMAN PARTICIPANTS ETHICS COMMITTEE**  
**ON 13/06/2019 for (3) years, Reference Number 022880**