

Update Newsletter – Number One

Measuring the effects of eye alignment surgery - a feasibility study

I am sending you this update newsletter because you have previously told me you would like to receive further information about the progress of my research.

Principal Investigator: Gemma Arblaster

Overview of the research:

This research study aims to find out whether it is feasible to measure changes in vision and task performance in patients who have had eye alignment surgery for psychosocial reasons.

The NHS currently funds eye alignment surgery for strabismus because of the known visual and/or psychosocial benefits to patients. However, more evidence is needed about the outcomes of eye alignment surgery in adults. Some areas in England have withdrawn funding for eye alignment surgery for psychosocial reasons over concern not enough patient benefit is proven. However, evidence suggests that there are aspects of patients' lives and their vision that can improve following eye alignment surgery for a planned psychosocial benefit.

This research study aims to find out more information and improve our understanding of the potential outcomes from eye alignment surgery. It aims to answer the questions that have not been addressed by smaller studies.

Key milestones in the research project:

Thank you to all the patients who took part in phase one of the research. This 'data collection' part of phase one the study has now been completed.

Patients who have previously had eye alignment surgery for psychosocial reasons at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been interviewed to find out what they report has changed for them following surgery. Thank you to all those patients who took part in phase one of the research, your information has been very interesting and is shaping the next part of the study. The results have been analysed and are being used to plan phase two of the research.

Phase two is expected to begin recruitment later in 2018. During phase two, patients who are planning to have eye alignment surgery for psychosocial reasons will be invited to participate. These patients will have a variety of measures of their vision and task performance measured before and after surgery. Currently recruitment is planned from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust only.

Funding:

The research is currently being funded by the NIHR. Gemma Arblaster has been awarded a Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship to undertake this research at the Academic Unit of Ophthalmology and Orthoptics, University of Sheffield. The research began in June 2017.

Data Protection

Since the study began, new regulations have come into effect – the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR). You have previously chosen to receive study update newsletters, which have been offered to everyone involved in the study as a participant, advisor or supervisor. To be able to receive these update newsletters I have recorded your preferred contact details (email or postal address) on a document, which is kept securely on a password protected University of Sheffield computer system. This information will be destroyed 5 years after the study has been completed (study end - May 2020).

The University of Sheffield will act as the 'Data Controller' for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The legal basis for me keeping your contact details is 'performance of a task carried out in the public interest'. If at any time if you no longer wish to receive these study update newsletters, please contact me and I will delete your contact details from my records.

The 'sponsor' of the research is Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

If you have further questions about the study or your information, you can contact me directly.

If you would like to contact the sponsor directly you can contact:

Dr Dipak Patel, Clinical Research Office, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
dipak.patel@sth.nhs.uk

Further information, including details about how and why the University processes your personal information, how we keep your information secure, and your legal rights (including how to complain if you feel that your personal information has not been handled correctly), can be found in the University's Privacy Notice

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>

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Vision Research in Sheffield (VRIS)



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