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**Study Title:** A study of eye movements, neuropsychology and mental health

**Study Number:** 08/S0801/38

Participant Identification Number for this trial: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Information for New Participants**

#### **Invitation**

We would like to invite you to take part in this **research study** described below. Please take your time to read this information sheet and feel free to discuss with friends and/or relatives. If you agree to take part in this study, we will ask you to sign the consent form and give you a copy of this sheet and consent form for your records.

#### **What is the background and purpose of this study?**

We want to examine eye-tracking patterns in patients with a variety of mental health disorders as well as unaffected control subjects. We want to find out if eye movement patterns can help to diagnose psychiatric disorders. At present diagnosis is made only on the basis of an individuals' psychiatric history, symptoms and behavior. We will also be looking to see if eye-tracking patterns are associated with performance on tests of memory, learning and problem solving skills. We already have eye movement data from several hundred people who have taken part in an earlier study.

This study is funded by the Wellcome Trust and is being conducted by the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, in collaboration with Saccade Diagnostics Ltd (a spin-out company from the University of Aberdeen). It has been approved by the North of Scotland Research Ethics Committee.

#### **What will I be asked to do if I agree to take part in the study?**

You will be asked to come to **Royal Cornhill Hospital grounds** at **Clinical Research Centre** at a convenient time. One of the research team will meet with you to conduct some neuropsychological tests e.g. tests examining your memory, learning and problem-solving skills. We will also ask you to sit in a chair in front of a computer and view some pictures. While you view the pictures your eye movements will be recorded by a small camera mounted below the screen. There will also be a task to follow a moving target on the screen. You should expect to stay in the department for around 2.5 hours in total. You may decline to do any of the tasks without specifying a reason, and without this affecting your future medical care.

**Are there any risks?**

Neuropsychological tests and eye tracking recordings are non-invasive and painless. You will be given short breaks and may stop the experiment at any time.

In the event that something does go wrong and you are harmed during the research and this is due to someone's negligence then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against the University of **Aberdeen** but you may have to pay your legal costs.

**What are the benefits to me?**

The information we obtain will not benefit you directly, but it will help us to understand some of the basic causes of vulnerability to mental ill health. This in turn may lead to new methods for prevention and treatment. You will receive no individual test scores or personal results from studies in which your data has been used.

**Will personal information about me be kept confidential?**

Personal information about you will remain strictly confidential and will be anonymized and coded in order to protect confidentiality. Personal information will be accessible only to academic research staff who are directly involved in the project. We also ask your permission for a researcher to inspect your medical records. This will allow us to gather relevant information on your case and aid in assessing results. All personal details will be kept separate to your study results and under no circumstances will your name be passed to any third party or appear in any publications.

Data collected in this study will not be transferred to other researchers. Saccade Diagnostics Ltd will only have access to fully anonymized coded data.

At any time you may ask your study doctor to confirm details of your personal information kept on file in respect of this study (i.e. name, contact details, gender and date of birth) and to correct it if necessary. The overall study results will be published collectively and the research team will be able to advise you on how to obtain this information when it becomes available.

**Is my participation voluntary? Can I choose not to take part?**

Yes. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose not to participate you do not need to give a reason, and your future medical treatment will not be affected. Similarly you may wish to take part and then change your mind at any time without giving a reason. If you withdraw from the study all your data will be destroyed.

**Can I be excluded from the study?**

You may be excluded from the study if the study staff find you do not fulfill all study criteria and/or that it would be in your best interest. This might also happen if the study does not get enough volunteers or if it is stopped for other reasons.

There are certain factors that may prevent you from being suitable for the study; these include colour blindness and wearing hard contact lenses. Please advise study staff if you are aware you suffer from any eye related problems.

**Will I benefit financially from the study?**

You will not benefit financially from participation in the study. If the research leads to discoveries that can be used commercially you will not be compensated as a research participant. Appropriate traveling expenses will be reimbursed to all those who participate.

**Conclusion**

If you agree to take part in the study, please sign a copy of the Consent Form. You will receive a copy of this information sheet and signed and dated consent form. Thank you in advance for considering this study. The study staff will be more than happy to answer any questions about this research.

**Contact Person**

Contact **Helen Lemmon** on **01224 557959** or **Joanna Rodzinka-Pasko** on **01224 557749** at any time if you have questions about this study, an injury related to the study, or withdrawal from this research. If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please feel free to contact your general practitioner for independent advice.