

**ETH2223-1190: 13/03/2023**

**Title of study**

Questionnaire-based study on optometrists' treatment of amblyopia in community practice

**Name of principal investigator**

Farah Mohamed

**Invitation**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of this study is

- 1- To determine the methods community optometrists use, if any, to treat amblyopia in children between 3-8 years of age and whether the methods used are evidence-based.
- 2- To identify any self-reported knowledge, skills or confidence gaps among community optometrists in treating and managing amblyopic children.

This study is being conducted as part of a master's programme project.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to attempt this questionnaire because you are a GOC registered optometrist.

If you spend over 50% of your working week in community practice you are eligible to take part.

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation in the project is voluntary, and you can choose not to participate in the project. You can withdraw at any stage of the project without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part by completing the questionnaire you have given your consent. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. However, as the questionnaire collects anonymous information once you submit your answers you will no longer be able to withdraw. If you change your mind about participating before submitting your responses, your data will not be stored and will not be used as part of the study. Data will be retained for the purpose of the study only. The questionnaire answers will be archived for 10 years after the project end date and then destroyed. No other personal information will be requested for the purpose of this study apart from an email address which is optional to take part in the prize draw or receive feedback of the project.

**What will happen if I take part?**

You will need to answer a questionnaire which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, it requires you to answer some questions about how you treat amblyopic children in community practice. Once submitted you have completed your involvement and will not be expected to attend any other sessions, complete any other questionnaires, or required to do anything else.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no anticipated disadvantages, side effects, risks, of completing an online optional questionnaire.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The project will have the indirect benefit of helping to inform optometric training on amblyopia treatment.

**Expenses and Payments**

No expenses will be incurred. Participants have the option to enter a draw to win a £50 John Lewis voucher.

**How is the project being funded?**

The £50 John Lewis voucher was funded by the supervisor's discretionary account at City University of London.

**Conflicts of interests**

No known conflicts of interest

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you would like to take part, you should complete the questionnaire.

**What will happen to the results?**

The results will be analysed and presented as a research paper and may be submitted for publication. If you would like to receive the results of the published project, there is an option at the end of the questionnaire where you can include your email address. A summary of the results will be sent via email to those participants who requested it once the project has been completed and assessed. The email addresses will be kept separate from the results of the questionnaire.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed by the Optometry proportionate review Ethics committee.

### **Data privacy statement**

City, University of London is the sponsor and the data controller of this study based in the United Kingdom. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The legal basis under which your data will be processed is City's public task.

Your right to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in a specific way in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal-identifiable information possible (for further information please see <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/public-task/>).

City will use your name and contact details to contact you about the research study as necessary. If you wish to receive the results of the study, your contact details will also be kept for this purpose. The only people at City who will have access to your identifiable information will be Farah Mohamed, Dr Catherine Suttle. City will keep identifiable information about you from this study for 10 years after the study has finished.

You can find out more about how City handles data by visiting <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/legal>. If you are concerned about how we have processed your personal data, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (IOC) <https://ico.org.uk/>.

### **Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Your participation in this study will be kept confidential and all data relating to you will be de-identified. It will not be possible to identify you from the research findings.

Farah Mohamed (researcher) will assign each participant a study ID. This is so that data from the sessions can be linked together, or it can be deleted if you wish to withdraw from the study, but the data will not be identifiable by anyone else.

Farah Mohamed will be the only person to have access to the data before this stage of de-identification.

All files will be stored with password-protection.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you have any problems, concerns or questions about this study, you should ask to speak to a member of the research team. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through City's complaints procedure. To complain about the study, you need to phone 020 7040 3040. You can then ask to speak to the Secretary to Senate Research Ethics Committee and inform them that the name of the project is [Questionnaire-based study on optometrists' treatment of amblyopia in practice]

You can also write to the Secretary at:

John Montgomery  
Research & Enterprise Office  
City, University of London  
Northampton Square  
London, EC1V 0HB  
Email: [j.montgomery@city.ac.uk](mailto:j.montgomery@city.ac.uk)

### Insurance

City University London holds insurance policies which apply to this study, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. If you feel you have been harmed or injured by taking part in this study, you may be eligible to claim compensation. This does not affect your legal rights to seek compensation. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for legal action.

### **Further information and contact details.**

Researcher Farah Mohamed

[Farah.mohamed@city.ac.uk](mailto:Farah.mohamed@city.ac.uk)

Supervisor Catherine Suttle

[Catherine.suttle1@city.ac.uk](mailto:Catherine.suttle1@city.ac.uk)

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.**