Aston University
BIRMINGHAM UK

Dry Eye in Clinical Practice

A survey of UK optometrists' perceptions of the diagnosis and management of dry eye disease, in a primary care setting

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study.

Before you decide if you would like to participate, take time to read the following information carefully and, if you wish, discuss it with others such as your family, friends, or colleagues.

Please ask a member of the research team, whose contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet, if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information before you make your decision.

What is the purpose of the study?

In recent years optometrists' roles have extended, with some gaining independent prescriber status and many more becoming involved in Clinical Commissioning Group minor eye condition service provision.

The purpose of this survey is to gain an insight into optometrists' perceptions of dry eye disease, their knowledge and confidence in diagnosis and their satisfaction with currently available first-line treatment options.

Why have I been chosen?

You are being invited to take part in this study because you are a UK optometrist working in a primary care setting. Please do not complete the survey if you only work in a hospital or secondary care setting.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to complete the online questionnaire about your opinions and practice in relation to dry eye disease. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. There are a mixture of questions requiring you to indicate your level of agreement to a

statement or tick boxes to indicate which options are relevant to you. There are no correct answers to any questions.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you do decide to participate, you will be asked to confirm your participation using an online consent form. If you start the questionnaire but decide not to complete it and withdraw from the study, you can close the browser and your response will not be saved. **Please note that you will not be able to withdraw from the study after you submit your responses as the questionnaire is anonymous, so we will not be able to identify individual responses**.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. Personal information that could enable participants to be identified will not be collected, unless you wish to enter the prize draw, in which case an email address will be required. Data will be stored on a secure cloud storage device and any emails will be deleted within one month of the prize draw taking place at completion of the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While there are no direct benefits for those participating in this study, we hope the information gained will help to inform future clinical practice and research needs.

What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?

There are no significant risks. You will be volunteering your time but may cease completion of the questionnaire at any time if it becomes inconvenient.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The anonymized results of this study will be collated and analyzed before being published in a thesis and may be published in scientific journals and/or presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, your identity will remain confidential.

If you are interested, we can provide you with a summary of the results at the conclusion of the study. To enable us to do this please request this by emailing the researcher at 149222499@aston.ac.uk and we will forward you a summary following completion.

Expenses and payments

None. However, all participants have the option of entering the £100 prize draw.

Who is funding the research?

There is no external funding for this study.

Who is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study?

Aston University is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study. You can find out more about how we use your information in Appendix A.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study was given a favourable ethical opinion by the College of Health and Life Sciences Ethics Committee, Aston University.

What if I have a concern about my participation in the study?

If you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please speak to the research team and they will do their best to answer your questions. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

If the research team are unable to address your concerns or you wish to make a complaint about how the study is being conducted you should contact the Aston University Research Integrity Office at research_governance@aston.ac.uk or telephone 0121 204 3000.

Research Team

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Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you have any questions regarding the study, please don't hesitate to ask one of the research team.

Appendix A: Transparency statement

Aston University takes its obligations under data and privacy law seriously and complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA") and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as retained in UK law by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ("the UK GDPR").

Aston University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study. Aston University will process your personal data in order to register you as a participant and to manage your participation in the study. It will process your personal data on the grounds that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (GDPR Article 6(1)(e). Aston University may process special categories of data about you which includes details about your health. Aston University will process this data on the grounds that it is necessary for statistical or research purposes (GDPR Article 9(2)(j)). Aston University will keep identifiable information about you for 6 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at https://www.aston.ac.uk/about/statutes-ordinances-regulations/publication-scheme/policies-regulations/data-protection or by contacting our Data Protection Officer at dp_officer@aston.ac.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).