

Participant Information Sheet For the study 'Investigating visual perception in fatigue'

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: _____

Title of Study: Investigating visual perception in fatigue

Department: Clinical and movement neuroscience

Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher: Dr Anna Kuppuswamy 02034488746

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decided it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. 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. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary.

1. What is the project's purpose?

Chronic, self-reported fatigue is a significant symptom in a number of diseases and the number one complaint seen in primary care. In this study we try to understand if such fatigue maybe related to altered visual perception. Changes in visual perception has been reported by some patients who also suffer from fatigue, however we do not know yet the precise relationship between fatigue and altered perception, which this study will address.

2. Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen as you fit the eligibility criteria of being over 18 years of age. There are no other restrictions to participating in this study.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. Although you can choose not to complete the study, once you have completed you cannot withdraw, as the data collected is anonymous and we will not be able to trace the data back to you to be able to withdraw it from the study.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you wish to take part, once you sign the consent form you will be asked to fill in some information about yourself (we will not ask for your name or contact details). This will be followed by 2 questionnaires relating to your experience of fatigue. After this you will be performing an online task that involves identifying shapes and responding by pressing the appropriate buttons. Detailed instructions will be provided before the start of the task. It will take about 15 minutes to complete the questionnaires and 45 to complete the online task.

5. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no risks involved in participating in this study.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those people participating in the project, it is hoped that this work will help us understand why some people suffer from chronic fatigue. This information will be valuable to design treatments for fatigue.

7. What if something goes wrong?

We do not anticipate that anything can seriously go wrong in this low risk study. However, if you wish to raise any issues about the process or the online task please contact the principal investigator Dr Anna Kuppuswamy (a.kuppuswamy@ucl.ac.uk) or should you feel your complaint has not been handled satisfactorily, please contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee – ethics@ucl.ac.uk

8. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

The data collected is anonymous, therefore your taking part in the study is entirely confidential. The data that we do collect will be kept confidential and stored securely in UCL servers.

9. Limits to confidentiality

Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.

10. What will happen to the results of the research project?

Once the research study is complete (aiming to complete in summer 2022), we will analyse the data and publish the results in scientific journals. The research summary will also be available on UCL webpage of Dr Anna Kuppuswamy

12. Contact for further information

Dr Anna Kuppuswamy
Box 146, 33 Queen Square
WC1N 3BG
02034488746
a.kuppuswamy@ucl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study.