

WATERLOO

OPTOMETRY & VISION SCIENCE

Participant Information Sheet

Title of Project: An international survey of optometric management of stroke survivors

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Introduction

You are being invited to participate in an online survey designed to evaluate the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of optometrists in Canada, Hong Kong, India, UK, and US regarding the assessment and intervention of stroke survivors. Participation is anonymous and voluntary. We anticipate that it will take approximately 15 minutes of your time.

What is the purpose of the study?

Stroke is the second major cause of disability and death worldwide. Although the survival rate of stroke has increased in recent years, the burden of stroke consequences on the quality of life of a stroke survivor remains a reality. This survey is being conducted to determine optometrists' knowledge and understanding of post-stroke visual consequences, assessment, and intervention and potential barriers to providing intervention and compare it across countries.

What will your responsibilities be if you decide to take part in the study?

If you decide to participate, you will complete an online survey through a secure platform called REDcap. Participation in this research is voluntary and you can withdraw your participation at any time by not submitting your responses. You can decline to answer any questions if you so wish. Because this is an anonymous survey, the researchers have no way of identifying you or getting in touch with you. Therefore, you can respond and express your opinions in confidence.

What are the possible benefits of the study for me and/or society?

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part. The benefits to society is that the survey results will help to identify knowledge gaps and optometry practice patterns, and may identify needs, problems, and barriers in post-stroke management. It will help to plan rehabilitation strategies and models for stroke survivors more effectively.

What are the possible risks and discomforts?

There is no adverse effect or potential harm to individuals participating in the survey. However, when information is transmitted over the internet, privacy cannot be guaranteed. There is always a risk your responses may be intercepted by a third party.

How will information be kept private?

This survey is completely anonymous. All data and information obtained in the study will be held in the secure online platform REDcap held on a secure server in the Optometry building. Furthermore, the survey is programmed to collect responses alone and will not collect any information that could potentially identify you. Electronic results data will be on a UW Optometry computer server. These folders will only be accessible to authorized members of the research team only. Data stored at the University of Waterloo study site will be secured in accordance with University of Waterloo policies available at <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/security/policy/>. The electronic records will be retained for 5 years after the study is complete.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (#43035). If you have questions for the Committee contact the Chief Ethics Officer, Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567 ext. 36005 or ore-ceo@uwaterloo.ca. For all other questions contact Dr. Amritha Stalin, astalin@uwaterloo.ca, Dr. Tammy Labreche, tammy.labreche@uwaterloo.ca or Dr. Susan Leat, leat@uwaterloo.ca.

Thank you for considering participation in this study. Your participation is considered your consent.
