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.

Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others, if you wish.

Thank you for reading this.

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.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you are an optometrist, and we want to know about your experiences of seeing patients who have had a stroke.

Do I have to take part?

No, your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you are free to withdraw your consent and stop participating in the questionnaire at any time, without giving a reason, even after starting the questionnaire.

If you decide not to take part, you do not have to explain your reasons and it will not affect your legal rights.

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 benefit to society are 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 confidential?

All information collected from (or about) you during the research project will be kept confidential and any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation. Please see 'What will happen to my Personal Data?' (below) for further information.

What will happen to my Personal Data?

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, University of Waterloo, Canada. 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 University of Waterloo is the Data Controller and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. Further information about Data Protection, including:

- your rights
- the legal basis under which Waterloo University processes your personal data for research
- how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office

may be found at https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection

The electronic records will be retained for 5 years after the study is complete.

Who has reviewed this research project?

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee (#43035) and by the School of Optometry & Vision Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Cardiff University. 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.

Further information, what to do if there is a problem and contact details

Should you have any questions relating to this research project or if you wish to complain, or have grounds for concerns during the course of this research, please contact Dr. Amritha Stalin, astalin@uwaterloo.ca, Dr. Susan Leat, leat@uwaterloo.ca or Dr. Tammy Labreche, tammy.labreche@uwaterloo.ca.

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