

## **Participant information Sheet**

**Study Title: A study on time pressure and dentist's diagnostic making.**

You are invited to participate in a study on diagnostic decision making. Please read the information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If you wish to participate please contact me directly ( [anastasios.plessas@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:anastasios.plessas@plymouth.ac.uk) )

### **1. What is the purpose of the study?**

In dentistry, we are called to make decisions on the spot. The international literature suggests that dentist experience stress in their working lives, and time constrictions and pressure is one of the most frequently cited stressor factors. There is conflicting evidence in the medical literature on how this time pressure may affect doctor's diagnostic and treatment decisions. This study is aiming to explore the impact of time pressure, if any, on dentist's decision making when viewing dental radiographs. This study is part of my ResM postgraduate degree project (Research Masters).

### **2. Why have I been chosen?**

We are looking for general dental practitioners with different number of years of clinical experience who are currently engaged in treating dental patients in a primary dental care setting (general dental practice).

### **3. Do I have to take part?**

Your decision to take part in this study is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw at any time during the study, without this affecting your practice or legal rights.

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

***Your participation in the study will last less than an hour. You will have to complete a series of questions (diagnostic tasks) using a computer in a quiet room with no distractions. This can be in your practice or in the premises of the Plymouth University depending on which of the two is most convenient for you.***

As part of the study, you will be asked to examine a set of radiographs supplied by the researcher. You will be asked to provide a radiographic report of your main observations as you would do normally in your own practice. The same process will take place in two different sessions under different conditions based on the time you will be given to complete each task (limited time versus no time pressure). After each session, you will be asked to complete a psychological visual analogue scale (VAS) about your feelings at the time. In the end, you will be asked to provide demographic data such as practicing years, postgraduate qualifications and gender.

The sequence of tasks you will be asked to complete is illustrated in the flowchart in the end of the information sheet.

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

During the study you will be asked to make decisions under limited time. Although we do not expect this to cause any distress, should this occur, if you remain distressed, you will be given the opportunity to stop and withdraw from the study. In such a case, you will be signposted to your GP or local Occupational Health Service for support.

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

You will be able to self-evaluate your performance under time pressure. Once the data of the study have been anonymised and analysed, you will have the opportunity to receive a brief summary of the results of the study through the clinics administrator or secretary who invited you to the study.

**7. What if there is a problem?**

If you have any concerns of the conduct of this study or you wish to complain please contact :

Dr Mona Nasser (Director of Studies)  
Lecturer in Evidence Based Dentistry  
John Bull Building, Science Park, Research Way,  
Plymouth, PL6 8BU.  
[mona.nasser@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mona.nasser@plymouth.ac.uk)

Or alternatively the Research Administrator to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee:

Sarah C Jones  
Faculty of Health and Human Sciences  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Rolle Building, Drake Circus  
Plymouth PL4 8AA  
[hhsethics@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:hhsethics@plymouth.ac.uk).

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

The tasks you complete and any reports that you write will remain anonymous. Your name will only be used in this consent form to keep a record of those who agreed to take part in the study. A unique study number will be given to you to record on all your answer sheets for the study. Your answers will be kept confidential at all times and treated with respect. Any data and results included in future publications will remain anonymous too.

**9. What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?**

Your decision to take part in this study is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw at any time during the study up until you have completed the tasks. Please let the principal investigator (AP) know you wish to withdraw. Your data will not be used for analysis and they will be destroyed. Once your data is anonymised with a unique identifier, it will not be possible to withdraw your anonymised data.

**10. What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of the study will be used in a thesis document (for the principal investigator's Research Masters) and also they will be disseminated within the dental research community via peer-review publications and conference presentations. A brief report of the findings will be

made available to the clinical administrator or relevant secretary who invited you to the study.  
You will not be able to be identified in any of the write up or publications.

**11. Who is organising the research?**

The research is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and sponsored by the University of Plymouth.

**12. Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been reviewed by the Plymouth University Faculty Ethics Research Committee.

***Thank you for reading the participant's information for the present study.***

Warmest Regards

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## Flowchart

