

What is the experience of Musculoskeletal Disorders among dentists and hygienists in the UK, and how does it correlate with the number of hours and days worked per week?

### **Participant Information Sheet**

#### **Invitation**

I would like to invite you to take part in a study forming part of an MSc dissertation project.

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 the study 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?**

The aim of this project is to investigate how work intensity and working hours influence the level of musculoskeletal disorders in dentists and hygienists.

The aim of this specific study is to better understand the ways in which we can reduce the impact of musculoskeletal disorders so that dental professionals can lead a healthier and more sustainable career. The data collected from the study will be used to better understand the link between musculoskeletal disorders and working patterns of dental professionals.

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

You are being invited to take part in this study because you are a registered dentist or hygienist currently working in the UK.

The main inclusion criteria are:

- You are between 18 – 65 years of age;
- You are a registered dental practitioner or hygienist;
- Have been administering clinical procedures in the UK over the last 12 months.

The main exclusion criteria are:

- Muscularskeletal disorders caused by clinically unrelated trauma such as sport injuries or accidents as well as systemic disease.

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

If you decide to participate, you will be asked to complete the following anonymous online questionnaire which focuses on your working patterns and level of musculoskeletal discomfort.

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

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

If you do decide to participate, you will be asked to read a series of consent statements regarding the use of the data you provide in response to the questionnaire. If you agree to the conditions, please click the 'next' button to continue to the questionnaire questions, your completion and submission of which confirms consent. If you are unable to agree, please shut down your browser. You would still be free to withdraw from the study at any time up until you submit your responses without giving a reason; after submission, because your responses will be anonymous, it will not be possible to extract your data.

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

**Yes.** The data collected will be anonymous.

If we need to collect personal data (such as a name and contact details) we will only use this for the purposes of contacting you to invite you to participate.

The data we collect will be stored in a secure document stored electronically on an encrypted password protected computer server.

To ensure the quality of the research, Aston University may need to access your data to check that the data has been recorded accurately, e.g., for the purposes of audit. If this is required, your personal data will be treated as confidential by the individuals accessing your data.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

While there are no direct benefits to you of taking part in this study, the data gained will provide the data to better understand the ways in which we can reduce the impact of musculoskeletal disorders in dental professionals.

### **What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?**

If you feel you have previously been heavily impacted by musculoskeletal disorders, then participating in this survey may have an emotional impact on you. Should you still wish to partake in the survey, and have any additional queries, then please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details provided. Additionally, you may find the MSK helpline useful. They can be reached on 0800 917 9390. In partaking in this survey, you will remain anonymous, and your data will be protected in accordance with the Data Protection Act. We estimate that the survey will take approximately 10 minutes of your time.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results of this study will be published in the MSc dissertation report of the researcher, wherein your identity will remain confidential.

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals and/or presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, your identity will remain confidential.

The anonymized results may be used for research by other research teams as described in Appendix A.

### **Expenses and payments**

There are no expenses or payments being provided for participation.

### **Who is funding the research?**

The study is being funded by Aston University.

### **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. Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study or related uses identified in this Information Sheet or Appendix A.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was given a favorable ethical opinion under delegated authority of the Health and Life Science Research Ethics Committee.

### **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 researcher and s(he) will do his/her best to answer your questions. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

If the researcher is 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](mailto:research_governance@aston.ac.uk) or telephone 0121 204 3000.

### **Research Team Details**

Msc Student: Hassan El-hashimi, email: [230385906@aston.ac.uk](mailto:230385906@aston.ac.uk),

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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](mailto: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).

When you agree to take part in a research study, the information about you may be provided to researchers running other research studies in this organisation and in other organisations. These organisations may be universities, NHS organisations or companies involved in health and care research in this country or abroad.

This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you. The information will only be used for the purpose of research, and cannot be used to contact you.

### **Consent Form**

1.	I confirm that I have read and understand the above study information. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.
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2.	I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time up until the point I submit my responses, without giving any reason and without my legal rights being affected.
3.	I agree to my personal data and data relating to me collected during the study being processed as described above.
4.	I agree to my anonymised data being used by research teams for future research.
5.	I agree to take part in this study.

**By clicking 'next', below, you agree to the statements above and consent to take part in this study. If you are not happy or willing to consent, please close your browser now.**