

L I T E F O R M

Lite Therapy Effectiveness For ORal Mucositis Trial

PATIENT INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDE

Version 1.0

LITEFORM: Patient Interview Topic Guide

Note: The interview schedule is developmental. The questions will need to be tailored to the specific answers of each interviewee. The interview schedule given here is therefore a general topic guide for the one-to-one qualitative interviews.

Welcome and Introduction.

Ask if any questions. Obtain informed consent

Re-cap of Research and Plan for Interview

Brief re-cap on the aims and purpose of the interview and explain what will happen.

The following questions need not be covered in this particular order but rather the interview should flow as freely and naturally as possible. The interviewer will prompt as appropriate with phrases such as 'can you tell me a little more about that', 'can you give me an example of that', 'how did/do you feel about that'.

LITEFORM recruitment interview questions – participants and decliners

I'd like to ask you about being invited to take part in the LITEFORM study. Can you tell me how you were first informed about the trial?

- Who was there?
- What else was going on in the appointment?
- Can you remember what they said?
- Can you remember what your first reaction was?

How did you decide whether to take part in the study?

- How did you make your decision?
- What things were important to you?
- Did you speak to other people about the decision? If so, who?
- When did you make the decision?
 - Immediately/nurse phone call/recruitment discussion
- Did you find it an easy decision to make? Why (not)?
- Decliners - how did you feel about saying no?

Do you remember being given some written information about the study?

- What did you think about that information?
- Was it helpful?
- How did you use it?
- Do you have any suggestions for how it could be improved? If so, how?

Would you have liked information about anything else?

- If so, what?
- Why was that important to you?

Can you tell me what you understand the study to be about?

Follow up interview questions – Trial Participants Only

Experience of cancer treatment

It is relevant to know what their experience of cancer treatment was – what sorts of side effects they had and how bad these were, whether treatment had to be stopped for any reason etc. For example if they were experiencing a lot of nausea and vomiting it will be relevant to ask how they coped with the LLLT while that was happening. It is likely to be difficult for patients to tell the story of their experience with the LLLT without putting it into this context. However it may be upsetting for the patient to talk about some parts of their experience. It is important to give them time to talk about this. Modify the questions about LLLT on the basis of what they say about their overall experience.

- Can you tell me about the period of cancer treatment – what was it like?
- How did you find the radiotherapy?
- How did you find the low level laser treatment?
 - (explore – additional time at appointments, any problems, staff delivering treatment, did they attend all sessions – why/why not?)
- What side effects did you experience during the cancer treatment?
- How was your mouth during and after the treatment?
 - (explore – feeding tubes, hospital admissions, treatment gaps)
- Did you think the laser treatment helped your sore mouth symptoms at all?
- How have you been since the cancer treatment finished?
- How are you now?
 - (explore – swallowing)

Anything Not Covered?

Is there anything that we haven't covered in the interview that you think we should know or think about?

Closing and Thanks

Conclude the discussion and thank the participant for their time and contribution.