

**PATIENT INTERVIEW INFORMATION SHEET**

Version 1.1

## Lite Therapy Effectiveness For ORal Mucositis Trial

### The LiTEFORM Study

**Interview study**

Thank you for agreeing to be contacted about taking part in a telephone interview. This is completely optional. You can agree to be interviewed even if you did not want to take part in the main study.

**Why are you interviewing people?**

- We would like to hear people's views on LiTEFORM, for example whether the information they had was helpful or if they had any worries about the laser therapy.
- We want to understand the kind of questions people have about the study.
- For those who took part in LiTEFORM, we want to understand their experience of having the laser therapy.
- The information we get will help us learn more about how to help patients having treatment for head and neck cancer. It will also help us learn about the main study including what could be done differently.

**Do I have to take part in an interview?**

No, it is entirely up to you. Your decision will not affect the standard of your care and, if you change your mind, you can withdraw from the interview at any time. Consent to be interviewed is completely separate to the main study.

**What happens next?**

We want to speak to as many people as we can, but we might not be able to contact every one. If we do contact you, a researcher from Newcastle University will contact you first, usually by telephone. They will answer any questions you have and agree a date and time with you to do the interview.

**1<sup>st</sup> Interview:** we will call you around 1 to 2 weeks after you were invited to take part in the main study. We would like to find out your thoughts on LiTEFORM and about why you decided to take part or decided not to take part. If you didn't agree to take part in the main study this will be your only interview.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Interview:** we will call you again at either around 4 months or 14 months after your last laser therapy. This is to find out more about your experience of the laser therapy and of taking part in LiTEFORM. There will be no more than 2 interviews per person.

### **What happens in the interview?**

We will ask you some questions to check you are happy to be interviewed. A recorder will be switched on and we will ask you again to confirm your consent for the record.

- The interview will take between 20 and 40 minutes.
- The interview will also be recorded.
- We will ask some questions to find out what you think about LiTEFORM and how you made your decision to take part or not. We are not going to try and change your mind, we just want to hear what you think
- At the end of the interview we will ask you if you are happy for the conversation to be included in the study.
- We will telephone you so that you do not have to pay for the call.

### **How will the interview be used?**

The conversation will be written out in full (a transcript) and used by the researchers. Your name and any personal details will be removed from the written version. We hope to publish the results of the study in medical journals, which may include using anonymised quotes from the interview.

### **Further Supporting Information**

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

You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. If you withdraw from the study during or after the interview we will ask you if we can use any information collected up to your withdrawal for our research. If you do not want us to use your information it will not be used and will be deleted from our file.

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

Yes.

- Any recordings of your voice and interview transcripts (written out version) will be kept securely at Newcastle University.
- All recordings, and all your contact information, will be deleted at the end of the study.
- We will use a number to identify you instead of your name. We will remove anything else that could identify you (anonymised).
- If you agree to take part in the interview study, anonymised transcripts (written out versions) will be kept to help future research. This may include sharing the transcripts with other researchers who are interested in doing their own analyses of the data. All data will be anonymised before it is made available. There will be no way to identify you or any other people mentioned in your interviews/appointments. Sharing access to data and results from studies is viewed as good practice and many funders and journals ask for this. Sharing data can encourage new ideas for research. We will not share any recordings – only the anonymised transcripts.
- Information about you will be looked at by people directly involved in the study, as well as by people who are checking it is running as it should.

If you tell us something in the interview that makes the researcher think either you or someone else is at risk of harm, we may need to tell someone else. We would tell you before we did this.

**What do I do now?**

If we contact you, a member of the LiTEFORM team will get in touch, usually by telephone or email. Please let them know whether you would like to take part.

**Thank you for thinking about taking part in our research. Please find study team contact details below.**

**Further information and contact details**

You can find more information on our study website: [www.liteform.org.uk](http://www.liteform.org.uk)

If you have any further questions, or if you are unhappy about any aspect of this study, please contact one of our qualitative researchers in the first instance:

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*If you should wish to make a formal complaint, you can do this through the National Health Service complaints procedure. Details can be obtained from the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) at your local hospital.*