

**Chief investigator:** Dr John A. Olson

**Study reference:** 07/S0801/107



## **Patient Information Sheet**

(for patients with non-referable maculopathy)

### **Improving screening for diabetic macular oedema using retinal photographs**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the information below and ask us if anything is unclear or you would like more information.

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

The purpose of this study is to find the best method for detecting sight-threatening macular oedema in people with diabetes.

The macula is the part of the retina that gives us our central vision that enables us to read and to recognise people. Oedema is the medical term for the build up of excessive fluid. In diabetic eye disease this fluid comes from leaking blood vessels and is the most common cause of visual loss in working-age people. Retinal screening programmes aim to reduce sight loss by detecting oedema early. However, oedema is transparent and cannot be seen directly on retinal photographs. Instead various indirect features are used to detect oedema. Unfortunately the existing guidelines about how likely oedema is to be present given a particular feature result in many people having to attend hospital unnecessarily, creating anxiety and reducing the time available for those who actually have oedema.

In this study we will compare the features seen on your retinal photographs with three-dimensional images of your retina generated using a technique known as optical coherence tomography (OCT). OCT is a rapid and safe imaging technique. It is performed in a similar manner to retinal photography and takes around ten minutes.

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

We are inviting some people with diabetes to take part in the study based on their last retinal screening photographs.

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

Your participation is entirely voluntary; you may choose to opt out at any point. If you choose not to take part in the study it will not affect your future clinical care in any way.

#### **What is involved?**

We will ask your consent to acquire photographs and OCT scans of your eyes to be used in the study. No other visits or procedures are required and taking part will not affect your future clinical care in any way. All information about you will be kept

secure and confidential. As soon as we have collected your photographs, all information which identifies you will be removed and replaced by a code. The data will be studied by researchers at the University of Aberdeen under the direction of Dr John Olson, the Chief Investigator for the study. Your images may be used for further studies in the future but only with approval from a Research Ethics Committee.

**Who can I ask for more information?**

If you have any questions about this study please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Olson, Clinical Director of the retinal screening service, at the address below. Further information about the study may be found on the study website:  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/mos>.

If you have any problems or complaints about the study you may either contact Dr. Olson or have your concerns addressed using the standard NHS complaints procedure. Any of the researchers will be happy to provide you with additional details.

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