

The following research studies are currently running locally. Taking part in any of these studies is entirely voluntary. As a participant you can withdraw at any point before or during a visit without giving a reason why. This does not affect your standard care or treatment in any way.

Investigating the control of movement and motor learning in patients with movement disorders

Oxford University's Experimental Neurology Group based at the John Radcliffe Hospital are conducting studies on the causes of Parkinson's. The studies are being run by Prof Peter Brown and Dr Ned Jenkinson to investigate why some patients with movement disorders develop tremor, have difficulties with movement and learning new motor skills.

The studies involve doing very simple tasks such as using a joystick, pressing buttons in response to visual cues presented on a computer screen, or, if you have a tremor, simply recording the position of your hands in space. This will take at the most a total of two hours, with breaks throughout.

We want to study the effects of non-invasive brain stimulation on such tasks. The stimulation is painless and has no lasting effects. Although this study will not be of any direct benefit to you, we hope that it might allow us to treat patients with your condition more effectively in the future. This research will not interfere with your medical treatment in any way and is completely harmless.

We are looking for people with Parkinson's to take part in our studies, as well as people aged between 45 & 70 who do not have Parkinson's for comparison. If you would like to take part in our study, or would like more information, please contact Peter Brown or Ned Jenkinson by email at oxford.experimental.neurology@gmail.com

Understanding the early pathological pathways in Parkinson's

A major study is currently underway to understand the very earliest steps in Parkinson's with the eventual aim of generating drugs to halt the condition before symptoms appear.

People with a diagnosis of Parkinson's made in the last 3 years will be eligible for study participation. Individuals will be given the opportunity to consent to a blood test for DNA analysis and a clinical assessment with a

neurologist during the outpatient visits. The study team is also recruiting people without Parkinson's of similar ages, and relatives of people with Parkinson's. This study is running across 10 sites: Amersham, Banbury, Kettering, Milton Keynes, Newbury, Northampton, Oxford, Reading, Aylesbury and Ascot.

If you're interested in taking part, or would like to learn more, please telephone the Discovery research team on 01865 234892, e-mail: Parkinsons.Discovery@nhs.net or visit <http://opdc.medsci.ox.ac.uk/patient-involvement>



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Exercise programmes for Parkinson's

Parkinson's is a progressive condition, which affects movement, and we are undertaking some research to evaluate the potentially beneficial effects of exercise programmes.

Short-term exercise programmes have been shown to benefit movement and other symptoms, health and wellbeing in people with Parkinson's. However, when

people stop exercising the benefits go away. It is important to see what happens with exercise programmes over a longer period of time.

The effect of exercise over a longer period of time on symptoms and health and wellbeing in Parkinson's has not yet been explored. In this randomised study we are exploring the effects of exercise programmes delivered over a longer period of time. Gym and transport costs to and from the gym and to the assessments would be paid.

We are exploring the effects of physical exercise and hand writing exercise programmes. There is an equal chance that you could be put in either programme. Both programmes will last six months and you would be asked to take part in two sessions a week.

If you are interested and you would like further information please contact us:

Marloes Franssen, Tel: 01865 483272, Email: marloes.franssen-2011@brookes.ac.uk



Response inhibition in health and disease

The purpose of this study is to examine eye movement abnormalities in Parkinson's patients. Using a portable saccadometer positioned on a headset (a non-invasive device that measures eye movements – see picture below) we can record exactly how your eyes are responding to a red or green light, presented to you on a screen or a matt wall.



The eye tracker only looks at the eyes and does not record a video image of any part of your face. The total length of the testing is about 30 minutes and detailed instructions about the task will be given to you before the beginning of the experiment. At the end of the experiment you will be asked a few simple questions about your symptoms and asked to make some simple movements in order to assess your condition clinically.

Preliminary results indicate that there is a difference in the eye movements between individuals who have the condition and those who don't. We now hope to demonstrate that eye movements change in line with progression over time.

If you're interested in taking part, or would like to learn more, contact Dr Chrystalina Antoniadou on (01865) 234728 or email chrystalina.antoniadou@clneuro.ox.ac.uk

If the studies described here aren't suitable, but you would like to hear about future research opportunities, please register your interest by calling your local NHS research team on (01865) 234892, email Parkinsons.Research@nhs.net or visit www.dendron.org.uk/rn/thames-valley.html
You can also ask your doctor or nurse about local research opportunities.

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