



(To be printed on Trust headed paper)

NATTINA

The NATional Trial of Tonsillectomy IN Adults: a clinical and cost effectiveness study

Participant Information Sheet – Patient Interviews

What is the study about?

In the NATTINA study we want to investigate the effectiveness and costs of tonsillectomy compared with delayed surgery in adults with recurrent tonsillitis by comparing the number of sore throat days over a 24 month follow up period. As part of the study we are carrying out several interviews with ENT patients, ENT staff and GPs to capture their views and experiences of sore throat and the treatment provided as part of this study.

Why are we doing the study?

Sore throats cause many adult hospital admissions in the UK each year. Removal of the tonsils (tonsillectomy) may be done for severe sore throats but we need more information about the benefits of this operation. We need to understand more about your experience of sore throats, what sore throats people might continue to have after the operation and which patients will benefit most from surgery as opposed to using antibiotics and/or pain killers.

What difference will it make?

We hope the views and experiences of patients expressed during these interviews will help us make better NHS guidance about who stands to gain the most from surgery and help improve the treatment of people with recurrent acute tonsillitis in the future.

Why have I been invited to take part in the interviews?

If you are participating in NATTINA, you will have previously given your consent for a researcher at Newcastle University to contact you about a potential interview. Alternatively if you declined participation in NATTINA, you will have returned an expression of interest form to request more information on the interviews.

What does taking part involve?

If you are interested in taking part, the researcher will arrange an interview at a time and location convenient for you. They can visit your home if this is what you would prefer. They will ask you to sign a consent form before the interview takes place.

During the interview, the researcher will ask questions about your expectations and motivations for participating in NATTINA, as well as your experience and views on tonsillitis treatments and sore throats. The interview is expected to take approximately 60 minutes and will be audio recorded with your permission.

Do I have to take part?

No, your participation in the interviews is voluntary and you do not have to take part. You can still participate in the main NATTINA trial without having an interview. You do not have to give a reason if you choose not to participate.

Expenses and payments

To say thank you for taking part we are happy to be able to offer you a £15 gift voucher at the end of your interview.

Will my details and the information I give be kept confidential?

Your personal details will only be used to contact you about the interview. No personal details will be made public or shared outside of the research team at the Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit. All information provided at the interview will be kept confidential and will only be used for NATTINA research purposes. Direct quotations may be used in the end of study report but these will be anonymised.

Who is organising and paying for the study?

The study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The research team are based in the Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit at Newcastle University.

If you have any concerns or complaints about the research, we will do our best to resolve them. Please contact:

Lorraine McSweeney
Email: Lorraine.McSweeney@newcastle.ac.uk
Telephone: 0191 208 7642

Can I see the results?

A summary of the results will be sent to you at the end of the study either by post or email, depending on what you would prefer. Results will also be made available on the NATTINA website: www.nattina.com at the end of the study.

What will happen next?

A researcher from Newcastle University will contact you and invite you for an interview. You will have the opportunity to discuss what is involved and you can then decide if you would like to take part. If you wish to participate an interview will be arranged at a time and location convenient for you. The researcher will take written consent before the interview.

How to get in touch

If, at any time, you need to get in touch you can telephone Lorraine McSweeney on 0191 208 7642. Or you can contact us by email at Lorraine.McSweeney@newcastle.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to consider participation in this study.