

Version 3, 07 May 2024

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION SHEET

Understanding the medical features of Norrie disease

Thank you for reading this information sheet.

At the UCL Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, we are carrying out research in order to discover more about Norrie disease. We want to learn more about problems with sight and hearing, how much people with Norrie disease are similar or different from each other and whether there are any other problems associated with it. Before you decide if your family would like to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand what it will involve. Please ask us if there is anything which is not clear, or if you would like more information. Our contact details are at the end of this sheet. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study aims to give people and families with Norrie disease better information about the condition. We want to understand what kind of vision and hearing problems it causes, when these problems begin, their severity, and how commonly it causes any other problems such as seizures, learning difficulties or problems with blood vessels. We also want to understand the variation in people of different ages who have Norrie disease; this is because in the future we will want to be able to tell if new treatments have been successful. For example, if we want to develop a treatment to slow down or prevent hearing loss, how do we tell when it has worked if we don't know at what age hearing loss starts and how quickly it deteriorates.

We want to link information about severity and type of hearing loss, blindness and other problems with the specific gene changes that have caused Norrie disease in different people. We want to know if some genetic changes can cause Norrie disease to be more or less severe, we want to better understand how the blindness and hearing loss develop, and we want to find out whether there is anything that can be done to change this.

In order to do this, we would like to get in touch with as many people with Norrie disease (children and adults) as possible and to ask them for a detailed medical history, examine them and ask their permission to review their medical records and previous test results.

We hope that in the future this will improve information given by doctors about the course of hearing loss, blindness and other problems, to families with Norrie disease. Although this part of our research is not looking for a cure, we hope that this research, together with our laboratory work, can pave the way for other research in the future.

Why have we been chosen?

Your family has been chosen because of a diagnosis of Norrie disease in your child or children.

Do we have to take part?

No. This decision is up to you and your family entirely. If you do decide to take part, please keep this information sheet. You will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving any reason. This will not affect the standard of care your family receives.

What will happen if we take part?

If you want to take part in this study, we will ask you questions about your child's Norrie disease in the past and now. We will also ask you about any other medical problems your child may have experienced. With your permission, we will look through your child's medical records and results of their clinical tests to understand more about their condition.

If your child has not had hearing and eye tests in the last few years, we may suggest that they have these in an NHS clinic and help to arrange it. If you do not want to have these tests repeated, we may ask your permission to write to your child's doctors to ask for details of past tests

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We hope that in the future this will improve the information given about the course of hearing loss, blindness, and other problems to families with Norrie disease. Although this research is not looking for a cure, we hope that this research can pave the way for other research in the future.

What happens if I change my mind about taking part?

If you agree to participate and then later decide you do not wish to take part, please contact us by phone, email or letter, and we will destroy any samples that have been donated by your family members (if any), and write to acknowledge that we have received your notification that you no longer wish to be part of the study.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

We request your permission for restricted access to your child's medical records and the information collected about your child during the study. All information collected about your family will be kept strictly confidential. Any information that is included in a research publication will have all identifying features removed, so that your child cannot be recognised from it.

How will my/my child's data be stored?

All of the information you give will be anonymised so that those reading reports from the research will not know who has contributed to it. Nobody other than the researchers will have access to your child's data. All information collected about your child will be saved securely on password-protected NHS computers and stored securely for 15 years in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Data will also be managed and analysed using the Digital Research Environment (DRE). The DRE provides technical safeguards and processes for strong data governance by design that support compliance with EU General Data Protection regulation (GDPR), UK Data Protection Act (DPA) and data security standards.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

We plan to publish the results of the research in medical and scientific journals and meetings during or at the end of the study. No participants will be identified.

Who has reviewed the study?

A Multicentre Research Ethics Committee has reviewed this research.

What are the arrangements for compensation?

The project has been approved by an independent Research Ethics Committee who believe that it is of minimal risk to you. However, research can carry unforeseen risks and we want you to be informed of your rights in the unlikely event that any harm could occur as a result of taking part in this study.

No special compensation arrangements have been made for this project, but you have the right to claim damages in a court of law. This would require you to prove fault on the part of the Hospital and /or any manufacturer involved.

If you are unhappy or wish to make a complaint about the care you receive from the NHS, PALS is a free and confidential service which helps patients, parents and carers with any information, concerns or problems. You can contact PALS by phone, email or in person. Email: pals@gosh.nhs.uk – Telephone: 020 7829 7862.

<http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/parents-and-visitors/clinical-support-services/pals/>

Contact for further information.

Please contact a member of the research team on the email addresses shown below for further information. Thank you for taking part in this study. This is your copy of the information sheet.

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