

Information Sheet

Thank you for considering participating in this research project. The purpose of this document is to explain to you what the work is about and what your participation would involve, so as to enable you to make an informed choice.

The purpose of this study is to explore physiotherapist beliefs and perspectives of immersive Virtual Reality (VR) as a platform for assessment and rehabilitation in patients with musculoskeletal shoulder pain and to identify potential barriers and facilitators to using VR in a musculoskeletal setting. Further, this study will inform the development of a VR intervention for the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal shoulder pain.

Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to take part, along with other physiotherapists, in a focus group interview conducted online via Microsoft Teams. This will be facilitated by two members of the research team. This focus group will be video recorded via Microsoft Teams and is expected to take 60-90 minutes to complete.

If you have never used immersive VR before, you will be provided with a headset to use at home over a one-week period. This will be delivered to you in person or by post. Instructions will be provided regarding the safe use of the headset to avoid physical injury or adverse effects. The most common adverse effect is motion sickness, which usually resolves quickly after use. It is advised to use VR for periods of 20 minutes maximum at a time to minimize this risk. You will also receive clear instructions on how to clean the headset before and after use to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no obligation to participate, and should you choose to do so you can refuse to answer specific questions or decide to withdraw from the focus group. Once the focus group has been concluded, you can choose to withdraw your details at any time in the subsequent two weeks.

All the information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous by the researcher, who will make it available only to other members of the research team. The only exception is where information is disclosed which indicates that there is a serious risk to you or to others. Please be aware, however, that while we can guarantee that we will maintain confidentiality, we cannot guarantee that focus group participants will do the same.

Once the focus group is completed, the recording will be saved in a private and secure folder in Microsoft Teams. The data will then be transcribed by the researcher, and all identifying information will be removed. Once this is done, the recording will also be deleted and only the anonymized transcript will remain. This will be stored on the University College Cork Microsoft Teams folder, available only to members of the research team. The data will be stored for 10 years. The information you provide may contribute to research publications and/or conference presentations as well as PhD thesis.

We do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study. However, if you experience any adverse effect or injury while using the VR headset, please discontinue use and inform the research team immediately. If you develop Covid-19 symptoms or are identified as a Covid-19 close contact while in possession of the headset, please let the research team know. You will be asked not to return the headset until you are symptom free and have completed the recommended time for isolation. Should you experience distress arising from the interview process, contact details for support services will be provided.

This study has obtained ethical approval from the UCC Social Research Ethics Committee.

If you have any queries about this research, you can contact me (Niamh Brady) at niamh.brady@ucc.ie or my supervisor Dr. Joseph McVeigh at joseph.mcveigh@ucc.ie.

If you agree to take part in this study, please sign the consent form overleaf.



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland

Consent Form

I.....agree to participate in Niamh Brady’s research study.

The purpose and nature of the study has been explained to me in writing.

I am participating voluntarily.

I give permission for my focus group with Niamh Brady to be video recorded.

I understand that I can withdraw from the study, without repercussions, at any time, whether before it starts or while I am participating.

I understand that I can withdraw permission to use the data within two weeks of the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.

I understand that anonymity will be ensured in the write-up by disguising my identity. I also undertake to maintain the confidentiality of the group.

I understand that disguised extracts from the focus group may be quoted in the thesis and any subsequent publications if I give permission below:

(Please tick one box:)

I agree to quotation/publication of extracts from the focus group

I do not agree to quotation/publication of extracts from the focus group

Signed:

Date:

PRINT NAME: