

## **BEAP AMD Study Summary of Participant Information**

Thank you very much for your interest in our research on age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Before you decide we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you to participate. One of our team will go through the information sheet with you and answer any questions you have.

This research follows on from an earlier study on eye diseases in 2003-6 in Bridlington which included all residents aged 65 years and older at the time. The study was based in Bridlington Hospital and GP surgery of Drs Hillman and MacNab. We learnt about glaucoma and AMD at the time. However, the information is incomplete especially for AMD.

The purpose of our present study is to find out how often AMD occurs in the UK currently, and how the different forms and stages of AMD progress in the UK population, and how they are related with the genes of individuals. We believe from the earlier study that Bridlington is an excellent location in the UK to do this study.

You are being invited to take part in this research because you are resident in Bridlington, and are aged 55 years or older. You may have no eye disease or problems at all, or different stages of AMD, other eye problems which you know about already. If you participated in the earlier study, we would be in a position to determine whether changes in your eyes have progressed since the earlier examination.

If you agree to participate in this study, we will ask you to sign a consent form documenting your willingness.

We will test your eyesight by asking you to read letter chart (similar to that used by opticians) whilst wearing your long distance or driving glasses. It is OK to use your contact lenses to read the chart. However, these will need to be taken out before we instil eye drops for you. Your eye pressure will be measured with a handheld device. Dilating eye drops instilled to enlarge your pupil to allow us to take photos of the back of your eyes (the photographic film of the eye: retina). The quality of images obtained without the eye drops is variable, and may not be clear for our analysis.

We will request you to complete a health questionnaire which will take you approximately 10 minutes.

We will then ask you to provide a DNA sample by swabbing the inside of your cheek. A video will explain to you how to do this. However, if you prefer, a member of our team will do this for you. It is best not have eaten anything for at least 30 minutes before the swab is taken to avoid food contamination of the sample.

This will complete your participation today.

Depending on what we find in your results, we would like to contact you in the future for a blood sample to do more detailed genetic analysis if you are willing. This would be without any obligation.

A more detailed information leaflet is available when you attend.

We thank you very much for your participation.

