Accommodation effects on peripheral ocular biometry

Research team contacts

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What is the purpose of the research?
The purpose of this research is to study the effects of focussing to near targets on the back of the eye: its shape, the thickness of its choroid, and the orientation of its light sensing cells. Results will be compared for nearsighted and normal vision people to better understand the progression of nearsightedness.

Are you looking for people like me?
The research team is looking for short-sighted and normally sighted young adults (males and females) aged between 18 to 23 years.

What will you ask me to do?
Your participation will involve routine eye examination including eye and general medical history, refraction, distances between ocular components and biomicroscopy (viewing light reflected from the eye structures). It will also involve some specialist tests including ocular length, choroidal thickness and Stiles Crawford effect. We will need to dilate the pupil of one eye with eye drops. Screening will be carried out before the experiment on the first visit. There are 3 visits and up to 5 hours of time will be needed.

Are there any risks for me in taking part?
The research team has identified the following possible risks in relation to participating in this study:
The drugs that we use (phenylephrine 2.5%) are used in clinical eye examinations, and there are minimal risks associated with using them. However, we will screen for the likelihood of possible side effects. This is basically a dilating eye drop that enlarges the pupil (small aperture in the eye) helping us to view your entire eye. The pupil dilating eye drop does not affect focussing ability, the eyes pupil will be enlarged for a few hours (~4 hours). The drops may cause slight stinging when first used, but this only lasts a few minutes. As pupil dilation makes the eye more sensitive to bright light, we recommend that you bring your sunglasses to wear afterwards. Until the pupil size returns to normal, you should not drive or cycle, and take care with walking. We recommend wearing your spectacle or contact lens correction for these tasks.

It should be noted that if you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from participation at any time during the project without comment or penalty.

Are there any benefits for me in taking part?
It is expected that this project will not benefit you directly, although you may be interested in learning more about your eyes. The results of this study will provide a better understanding of myopia development risk and likely optical treatment effectiveness. This study will eventually be of benefit to people at risk of myopia development.

Will I be compensated for my time?
To compensate you for your contribution, on completion of the project you will be given a $15 gift voucher.

I am interested – what should I do next?
If you would like to participate in this study, please contact the research team. You will be provided with further information to ensure that your decision and consent to participate is fully informed.

Thank You!

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 1300000162