

Participant Information Sheet

Title of Project:

Listen-In: the development and testing of a web-based therapy application for patients with impaired speech comprehension caused by stroke.

Ethics approval:

This study has been approved by the NRES Committee London-Hampstead Research Ethics Committee REC number: 15/LO/0569

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Introduction

We would like to invite you to **participate** in this **research project**.

You should only **participate** if **you want to**; choosing **not** to take part will **not disadvantage you** in any way.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to **read the following information** carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or you would like **more information**.

Background

Language impairment (aphasia) is the second most common major impairment after stroke, with a prevalence of **~250,000 in the UK**.

Speech and Language therapy is available to alleviate this impairment.

Aphasia may respond to therapy many **months and years after the stroke occurs**, but **provision of speech and language therapy** is **far below** that needed to provide **optimal rehabilitation**.

We are hoping to address this by **targeting a common symptom** of post-stroke aphasia: **impaired speech comprehension**.

Listen-In is designed to **improve spoken language comprehension** in persons with **post-stroke aphasia**, who are in the chronic phase (more than 6 months after stroke).

Aim

The **aim** of this study is see whether the **Listen-In App improves** persons' with aphasia ability to **comprehend speech**.

What is Listen-In?

Listen-In is an **electronic therapy App** for persons with aphasia. It has three main components:

1) **Two baseline tests.**

These probe **spoken word comprehension** and **attention** skills.

They take about **1 hour** to complete.

2) **Therapy.**

You will spend the majority of your time on this.

Therapy consists of **spoken language comprehension challenges**, and short games that provide regular breaks.

3) **Outcome measures.**

After you have completed **one cycle of therapy**, you will be directed to **test yourself** to see if your **spoken language comprehension** has improved.

This involves completing the same **two tests again**. There is also a short **questionnaire**, to capture your **own view of your language skills**.

What happens to my data?

We would also like to know if the **Listen-In app** is working for **you**. The most **scientific** way to do this is for us to **collect data** on how you **progress** through the **App** and your **scores** on the **tests** (mentioned above).

All data is **collected** and **stored** on a **secure UCL server** in accordance with the **Data Protection Act 1998**.

You will be able to **access** your **most recent spoken word comprehension score** to see if the **therapy** is **working** for **you**.

How often and how long do I practice for?

In our **recent trial**, **participants with aphasia** played **Listen-In** for **85 hours** (on average).

We **tested participants spoken word comprehension** skills before and after therapy.

The **results** showed that participants **returned** to **'normal' performance by 30%** (on average). ('Normal' performance is the average score by a group of same age adults without aphasia).

Some people need **more or less time** than others.

We recommend **practicing** with **Listen-In** for between **20 and 40 minutes a day**, although the best thing is to go at your **own pace**.

It is extremely **unlikely** that interacting with the App will do you any **harm**, but if you find it **uncomfortable** in any way you should **stop**. You can always try again later or for a shorter period of time.

You are free to end you participation at any time

It is up to **you** to **decide** whether or not to **take part**.

If you choose **not to participate** it will involve **no penalty or loss of benefits** to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you **decide to take part** you will need to fill in the **consent form** in the Listen-In app. If you decide to take part you are still **free to withdraw at any time** and without giving a reason.

If you wish for **your data to be deleted** you can action this at any point (see the '**About**' page in the **App**).