

Informed Consent Form

Title of the Study: Ergonomics of gastrointestinal endoscopies: musculoskeletal injury among endoscopy physicians, nurses and technicians

Principal Investigator: Dr. Shahab Abid

Institute: Department of Medicine, The Aga Khan University

Introduction:

We, here, at the Department of Medicine, the Aga Khan University, are conducting a research to assess ergonomics of gastrointestinal endoscopies. Ergonomics is to optimize the interaction of the operator with his or her tools, tasks, and workplace to minimize injury and maximize efficiency. We want to collect information regarding musculoskeletal injuries among endoscopists and ancillary staff, and to determine any relationship between amount of work and severity of injury, or any effect of injury on the quality of work. Since you are an endoscopist/staff involved in endoscopy, we would like to invite you to join this research study.

Background information:

Several studies have suggested a high prevalence of musculoskeletal injuries among endoscopists and ancillary staff. There is a paucity of data especially from eastern populations of endoscopists. Moreover, a robust analysis to identify risk factors associated with endoscopy-related injury is lacking. Endoscopists are presumably at risk for overuse syndromes because of the repetitive movements and potentially awkward posture associated with endoscopic procedures. Endoscopy involves many of these risk factors: repeated pinching or gripping of the endoscope, pushing, pulling, and torquing of the insertion tube while working in awkward postures.

Purpose of this research study:

The ultimate purpose of this study is to determine the frequency and severity of musculoskeletal injury among endoscopy staff, and to determine the relationship between the amount of work and the severity of injury, and the effect of musculoskeletal injury on quality of work in endoscopy. It aims to identify the changes that can improve the working environment and safety of the endoscopy physicians and staff.

Procedures:

In this study we will ask a few questions regarding your involvement in the endoscopy procedure and the musculoskeletal injuries encountered through a questionnaire. This will take about 10 minutes of your time.

Possible risks or benefits:

There is no risk involved in this study. We will debrief all the study participants regarding the results of our study which will help in optimizing working conditions of the endoscopy procedure for them. Our findings will be disseminated in the form of a manuscript.

Right of refusal to participate and withdrawal

You are free to choose to participate in the study. You may refuse to participate if you wish. You may also withdraw any time from the study.

Confidentiality

The information provided by you will remain confidential. Nobody except the principal investigator will have access to it. Your name and identity will also not be disclosed at any time. However, the data may be seen by the Ethical Review Committee and may be published in a journal and elsewhere without giving your name or disclosing your identity.

Available Sources of Information

If you have any questions you may contact Principal Investigator Dr. Shahab Abid, Department of Medicine at the Aga Khan University on the following number 02134861020.

AUTHORIZATION

I have read and understand this consent form, and I volunteer to participate in this research study. I understand that I will receive a copy of this form. I voluntarily choose to participate, but I understand that my consent does not take away any legal rights in the case of negligence or other legal fault of anyone who is involved in this study. I further understand that nothing in this consent form is intended to replace any applicable federal, state or local laws.

Participant's Name (Printed or Typed):

Date:

Participant's Signature:

Date:

Principal Investigator's Signature:

Date:

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent:

Date: