



Participant Information Sheet

Study title:	Endometriosis Cognition and Brain Recordings	
Principal investigator:	Associate Professor Liana Machado Department of Psychology	Contact phone number: 03 479 7622

Introduction

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully. Take time to consider and, if you wish, talk with relatives or friends, before deciding whether to participate. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to take part, there will be no disadvantage to you, and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the aim of this research project?

The present study aims to gain a better understanding of how endometriosis and associated symptoms might affect the brain. In particular, we are interested in potential influences on cognitive performance (thinking abilities) and electrical signals from the brain. By developing a clearer understanding of these, we hope to be in a better position to understand how best to help people with endometriosis.

Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Department of Psychology.

Who are we seeking to participate in the project?

We are seeking at least 159 women from the University of Otago and wider Dunedin population.

Participants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be biological women who are not currently pregnant
- Have normal or corrected-to-normal vision with no colour blindness

- Have no scalp conditions and be comfortable with experimenters placing equipment on the head
- Have not commenced or undergone menopause
- Have a regular menstrual cycle (21-35 days), or be on a form of hormonal birth control
- Have no history of severe concussions or head trauma
- Have no history of neurological diseases and have not been diagnosed with dementia
- Have not experienced a seizure in the last 5 years
- Be diagnosed with any stage/classification of endometriosis, or be healthy with no history of chronic pain
- Not be experiencing pain due to injury/illness beyond pain related to endometriosis

If you participate, what will you be asked to do?

Should you agree to take part in this project, you will be asked to visit our laboratory for approximately 1 hour to:

- Answer questionnaires related to your physical and mental health, sleep, medication use, and general demographic information.
- Complete several cognitive tasks with simultaneous brain recordings. These tasks require you to keep your head in a chin rest and provide a response by pressing a button.
- There are no known risks associated with these tests, and periods of rest are encouraged.
- Wear a head cap and light-weight wireless device on your head for the recording of brain activity during the cognitive tasks.

In addition, we will ask if you would allow us to contact you in the future about potential participation.

Please remember that your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw at any time with no disadvantage.

Is there any risk of discomfort or harm from participation?

Although cognitively demanding, undergoing the cognitive tasks will not pose any harm, but it is possible that you will find wearing the brain recording head cap uncomfortable. Before participating, you will be asked to complete a series of questionnaires relating to pain, your quality of life, your use of medication(s), physical and mental health, and wellbeing. These questionnaires are well established and widely used across research. However, you may find some of the questions confronting, as they require sharing personal information about sensitive issues. If you feel uncomfortable completing any of the questionnaires, you are welcome to not answer some questions. Also, you may withdraw from the study without any disadvantage to you.

What data or information will be collected, and how will they be used?

All information you provide us will be stored in the Department of Psychology on a password protected computer system, and physical questionnaires in a locked file cabinet only accessible by

the researcher(s). Information will be anonymised, meaning there will be no personally identifying information attached to it. This anonymised data may be presented at university conferences, via theses, and academic publications. In line with the University's privacy policy, this data may be stored for at least 5 years after the study completion date.

What about anonymity and confidentiality?

All data will be anonymised, meaning no personal identifying information will be presented in any conferences, publications, or thesis.

If you agree to participate, can you withdraw later?

You may withdraw from the study at any time without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

If you feel unwell at any stage during the 48 hours before attending your laboratory session, please let us know and we will arrange with you a different time for the session.

Any questions?

If you have any questions now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:

Ashlee Berryman, Student Researcher	ashlee.berryman@otago.ac.nz
Dr. Liana Machado, Principal Investigator	liana.machado@otago.ac.nz

[This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee, (Health). Reference: H23/069]

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (Health). If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (phone +64 3 479 8256 or email gary.witte@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.