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Participant Information Sheet

The Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Decision Aid (HeMBDA) Study

Version 1: 18/09/24

Thank you for your interest in the HeMBDA study. This information sheet will help you decide if you want to take part in an interview. If you have any questions about the project, please email hembda@uq.edu.au.

What is this research about?

Many women experience heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) and it can have a major impact on their quality of life. Several treatment options exist, which may be differentially suitable for different women. We want to find out how to best support women to choose between these options. As part of this, we want to hear from general practitioners (GPs) and gynaecologists (OBGYNs) about how they make treatment decisions, factors that might influence these decisions, and the tools/ resource they share with patients to support their decision-making regarding these treatment options.

The study is being conducted by The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney and Theu University of Melbourne. Further details about the study and the research team are available here: https://public-health.uq.edu.au/hembda

Who can participate?
Clinicians who:

- Are currently practising in Australia
- Are involved with the diagnosis and treatment of HMB,

What will I need to do?
Please complete this survey to express interest in taking part. We will use the information you give us to ensure we interview a broad range of people. We will contact you within 2 months if you are invited to take part in an interview. Interviews will be:

- About 1 hour long
- Via Zoom
- At a time that suits you
- With one or two researchers

During the interview, we will ask you about:

- Your experience of diagnosing and treating HMB
- Factors that influence your treatment-related decisions
- How you discuss these decisions with patients
- Clinical guidelines used to inform your decisions
- Any tools/ resources you use to help patients make informed decisions

We have worked with a consumer advisory group to develop questions for the interviews. You can also tell us about other experiences or views that are important to you, even if we don't ask about them.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
Everyone who takes part in an interview will receive a $100 giftcard to thank them for their time. Participants will also be able to claim time spent on the project as part of their continuing professional development.
You may also value being part of a project that aims to improve menstrual healthcare in Australia. Beyond that, it is unlikely you will directly benefit from taking part.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?
Attending the interview may be inconvenient.

Will the interview be recorded, and can you change what you have said?
We will audio record your interview which will be transcribed verbatim. All personal details, such as names, will be removed from the transcript. Within 2 weeks of your interview, you can ask to add to or clarify any comments in the transcript. After we remove the identifying information from the transcripts, it will be impossible to identify your comments or remove them. Audio recordings will be destroyed once transcription is complete.

What will happen to the information about me?
All information collected about you will be confidential. We will store identifiable information such as names and addresses separately to interview transcripts. This means it will not be possible to link the transcript back to you. Only members of the research team will have access to data that identifies you, unless:

- You have consented otherwise; or,
- We are required by law to release this information to meet our regulatory obligations

We will use a reputable Australian company to transcribe the recordings. They will follow strict confidentiality procedures to protect the recordings and transcripts. We follow the University's Research Data Management Policies and Procedures (or future versions of this Policy, if it is updated). We will store the study data in UQ's secure research drive, for at least 5 years after the end of the project. It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published in a medical journal and/or presented in forums, such as academic conferences. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

How will the information collected be used?
We will interview about 10-15 clinicians from each specialty from different clinical backgrounds across Australia. We will analyse all of the interviews to make recommendations that support people's decision making about treatments for heavy menstrual bleeding. We may include direct quotes from transcripts in articles, reports or presentations. If we do this, we will make sure that you remain anonymous. We will also group together the information participants give us about their characteristics (like age, treatment options tried) and use it to describe the group.

What will happen if you decide not to take part?
Taking part in this study is voluntary. You do not have to take part. If you decide to take part now and change your mind later, that is ok. You can stop at any time. You do not need to give a reason. There

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will be no penalty, and it will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland. You can withdraw by contacting the researchers at: hembda@uq.edu.au.

If you decide to withdraw from the study before we de-identify study data (2 weeks after your interview), we will ask you if you would also like to withdraw your data (interview transcript and survey responses) from the study. After we de-identifying the study data, it will not be possible to withdraw your data.

What do I need to do to participate?

Please read this Participant Information Statement. If would still like to take part in an interview, please complete the following survey and await our response. Thank you for considering this invitation.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the researcher contactable on j.doust@uq.edu.au if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au.

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