



Participate in a Research Study: Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency in Contact Lens Wearers

Are you a contact lens wearer or a healthy non-wearer aged 18 or older? You are invited to take part in a study investigating limbal stem cells, which help maintain corneal health and healing.

What is the study about?

This study will look at cells that keep the cornea (clear window at the front of the eye) healthy and help it to heal. These cells are called limbal stem cells and if they don't work properly, it leads to a condition called limbal stem cell deficiency which can cause loss of vision.

Who can participate?

We are looking for:

A. Contact Lens Wearers:

- Aged 18 or older.
- Actively using contact lenses for at least the past two years.
- Wearing lenses for at least 5 hrs/day, and 3 days/week.

B. Non-Contact Lens Wearers: Healthy non-wearers aged 18 or above.

Exclusion: Individuals will be excluded if they have had eye surgery, are allergic to eye drops, or have an eye infection.

What does participation involve?

This is a one-visit, two-step study with a screening and study visit.

A. Screening Visit: Before screening, they will be asked to provide written consent by signing the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form. An ocular health check with a high-magnification clinical microscope (10 minutes).

B. Study Visit: This visit will take approximately 90 minutes and involves the followings:

- Complete a brief questionnaire (10 minutes, followed by a 10-minute break).
- Eye health check and imaging (scans of the front of the eye using a high-magnification clinical microscope; approximately 30 minutes, with a 10-minute break after).
- Provide a small tear sample (10 minutes, followed by a 10-minute break).

Compensation

Participants will be reimbursed with a \$20 Coles Myer gift card at the end of the study visit to compensate for your time and travel expenses associated with attending the visit.

How to participate?

Check your eligibility by scanning the QR code or visiting the provided link. If eligible, you will receive more information about the study activities, including any potential risks or harms, and potential discomforts. This information will be in the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form (PISCF). You will receive email and mobile reminders one week and one day before their visits to confirm the schedule.

Please contact the following person via email or phone to register your interest in taking part in the research:

Name	Mahar Safdar Ali Qasim
Position	Student Investigator (Ph.D. Candidate)
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If you have any questions about the research and would like to contact the Investigator or Chief Investigator, please reach out to the following person:

Principal/Chief Investigator:

Name:	Dr Nicole Carnt
Email:	n.carnt@unsw.edu.au
Phone:	+61 2 9385 4639
Website:	https://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/

Check your eligibility

Link:

https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/previewId/cc7af693-cd3c-411d-9938-6104cae44846/SV_01HXC4OFyy6LK4u?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current

