**Exploring adolescents’ and young adults’ experiences of seeking information about chronic pain using the internet and social media: a qualitative interview study**

**Debriefing Statement** *(written and verbal)* (version 0.2, 28/08/2020)

**ERGO ID: 56803**

The aim of this research was to explore adolescents’ and young adults’ experiences of searching for information about persistent or chronic pain using the internet. This includes experiences of searching the internet using search engines, health information websites (e.g. the NHS website), and social media platforms. Similar research has been conducted with healthy adolescents (Henderson, Keogh & Eccleston, 2014).

This was a qualitative interview study where experiences will be interpreted by the research team to generate a set of themes (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Your data will help our understanding of how adolescents’ and young adults’ might use the internet to search for chronic pain information and pain management strategies. Once again, results of this study will not include your name or any other identifying characteristics. This research did not use deception (i.e. we did not hide any information about the study from you when you decided to take part).

NHS evidence-based guidance on ways to reduce pain can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/10-ways-to-ease-pain/>

If you have any further questions, or would like to hear about the findings of this research, please contact me; Anna Hurley-Wallace at [A.Hurley-Wallace@soton.ac.uk](mailto:A.Hurley-Wallace@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you for your participation in this research.

Signature: A drawing of a face

Description automatically generated Date Click or tap here to enter text.

Name: Miss A L Hurley-Wallace

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this research, or if you feel that you have been placed at risk, you may contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

References

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3*(2), 77-101. doi:10.1191/1478088706qp063oa

Henderson, E. M., Keogh, E., & Eccleston, C. (2014). Why go online when you have pain? A qualitative analysis of teenagers' use of the Internet for pain management advice. *Child Care Health Dev, 40*(4), 572-579. doi:10.1111/cch.12072