

GCO # 07-0916

### ASSENT FORM FOR CHILDREN 7-17YEARS

**Name of participant** \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this form is to provide you with the information you need to consider in deciding whether to participate in this research study. If you have more questions or if something is unclear, we encourage you to ask us anytime. We are more than happy to answer any questions and always remember there are no stupid questions.

#### **Why are we doing this research?**

You are invited to participate in a research study on childhood absence epilepsy also known as petit mal. The reason you were selected as a possible participant in this study is that you or somebody in your family has staring spells. Absence seizures or staring spells are brief blank stares, which begin and end very quickly. We are doing this research because we would like to find why and how people get these spells and why it happens in some families and not in others.

#### **What you have to do if you decide to participate**

If you and your parent/s or guardian/s decide that you can participate, we are going to ask you some questions in front of your parent/s or guardian/s. You don't have to answer any questions you do not like.

When you participate, we may ask you to spit into a little container we will provide or have a small amount of blood drawn (20 ml or less than 3/4 of an ounce or 4 little tea spoons) by a well trained technician. This will probably sting for a second or two.

If you don't have staring spells, you may have an EEG. An EEG is a painless, non dangerous way to see how your brain is working. For this we will put tiny cups with wires attached and use a cream, sort of like toothpaste, to keep the cups on your head. The wires will then be hooked up to a recording machine for about one hour while your brain waves are being recorded. We will ask you to breathe hard for several minutes (as if you were pretending to be out of breath). At a different time, we will ask you to look at some flashing lights, like those at a disco. You will lie down during this test and can go to sleep if you want. It does not hurt and the paste comes right off when you wash your hair.

#### **Will you have discomfort or is it risky doing those things?**

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Giving saliva (or spit) may be annoying but we have not heard that anybody got hurt or injured by doing it. Lots of children have blood draws everyday at their doctor's office. Usually it doesn't really hurt. We will use a special cream to make your skin go numb, so you will hardly feel the blood draw being done. Some children feel faint during a blood test; sometimes there's a little bruise afterwards where the blood was taken. Once in a while people get a rash from the paste used for the EEG. Very rarely somebody can have a seizure from looking at the flashing lights, but we've never had this happen in our study. The person registering the EEG will be watching you closely and will turn the flashing lights off before this might happen. You also should let us know if you feel uncomfortable and we will then stop the flashing light.

**Will you get something out of it for participating?**

You will not personally benefit from this study but with your help we might be able to learn more about what causes these staring spells. This work will hopefully benefit other children and grownups in the future

**Do you have to participate?**

You don't have to be in this study. It's up to you. If you say "okay" now, but if you want to stop later, that's okay too. All you have to do is tell me. No one will be upset with you if you don't want to participate or if you change your mind later and want to stop.

Please talk over taking part in this study with your parents before you decide whether or not to participate. Your parents will also be asked to agree to your taking part in this study. But even if both of your parents say 'yes' to your participation, you can still decide not to be in the study.

If you wish to participate in this study and you feel that \_\_\_\_\_ has explained the study and everything that we ask you to do for it in a way so you could completely understand it and have no more questions, we ask you to sign this form

Child: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

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**ASSENT FOR RESEARCH**

**GCO #** 07-0916

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_