



Your role in improving the diagnosis of lung disease

Information sheet

What is DART?

NHS England have launched the Lung Health Check programme to help detect lung diseases early and improve care for people affected by lung diseases. The aim of the DART study is to see if we can further improve some parts of the Lung Health Check programme.

The project is led by the University of Oxford working with the Lung Health Check centres, NHS hospitals, companies and charities.

To perform the DART research project, we need data from as many people attending Lung Health Check centres as possible. If you do not want your data included, now or at any time, please tell us using the contact details below.

Your role

You do not need to do anything – the DART team will use computers to conduct additional analysis of your scans and look at the data from your lung health check. It does not require any extra time, scanning or visits for you, and does not interfere in any way with the health care you are already or about to receive. If you do not object to DART collecting your data, you will be helping the researchers to improve the diagnosis of lung and other smoking related diseases.

Your personal information is kept confidential, so no-one can look at it, but the NHS research laboratory in Oxford will be able to link your data (NHS records, scans, biopsies and resections) to enable the research to happen.

The DART research team in Oxford remove any link to you before it is used by any of the researchers so there is no link back to you and you will never be identified. This is known as anonymisation.

What the research hopes to achieve

Use computers (artificial intelligence) to:

- identify nodules that are not cancers and are harmless
- speed up the time to diagnose early lung stage lung cancer

- remove the need for other investigations such as lung biopsies in some patients
- make investigating patients for suspected lung cancer safer
- allow the NHS to reach many more people for Lung Health Checks and ultimately save lives
- Make other diagnoses from the data, such as heart or other lung problems

Why this is important

- If found at an early stage, lung cancer is treatable
- DART aims to develop an Artificial Intelligence software programme that is fast and accurate and will assist doctors to interpret CT scans and detect cancer
- This would speed up the time to diagnosis and reduce the numbers of additional scans and biopsies that might be needed in future.
- As smoking can cause other lung and heart problems, we aim to use Artificial Intelligence software programmes to see if we can identify these as well.

Further information

If you want more information about the project visit www.dartlunghealth.co.uk.

If you do not want your data included in the project, please email ouh-tr.dart@nhs.net.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the West Midlands Black Country Research Ethics Committee, reference 21/WM/0278.

We have special permission to conduct the DART study without study-specific consent (i.e. link, transfer, process and analyse the data) from the Confidential Advisory Group under Section 251 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and its current regulations, the Health Service (Control of Patient Information Regulations 2002) (CAG reference number: 22/CAG/0010)).

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