DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD AMBLYOPIA TREATMENT QUALITY OF LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE (CAT-QoL)

Dr Jill Carlton

Aim: To develop a questionnaire to evaluate the impact of amblyopia treatment upon a child’s health-related quality of life (HRQoL)

Research Project Design: Mixed methods study.

Methodology Used: A literature review identified HRQoL implications of amblyopia and/or its treatment to inform a topic guide used for three focus group sessions undertaken with clinicians. The sessions were conducted to identify any additional HRQoL implications of amblyopia and/or its treatment. In a development phase, 59 children were interviewed. Transcripts were analysed to identify items and levels for the descriptive system. These were used in a pre-piloting phase. Ranking exercises and cognitive debriefing results were used to modify the developed descriptive system. The psychometric properties of the instrument were assessed using data from a multi-centre validation study, and compared with HRQoL data from a generic HRQoL measure.

Results: Seven versions of the CAT-QoL were developed.

Conclusion: Children are able to report their own health; and to describe what impact their amblyopia treatment has had upon their daily lives. The CAT-QoL is a measure that can be used in healthcare studies to investigate the impact of amblyopia treatment on children’s HRQoL.

Declaration: This work was produced under the terms of the Personal Development Award research training fellowship issued by the NIHR.

Biography: Graduated in Orthoptics from the University of Sheffield and worked as a clinician at Leicester and Sheffield. She completed her MMedSci during this time and saw the need for evidence based practice. She secured a secondment with ScHARR investigating patients with AMD. She then secured the post of research associate at ScHARR where she designed a questionnaire to assess the impact of treatment for amblyopia and completed her PhD. She is now a research fellow and continues her work in this area.