Thank you for taking the time to read the information below and to consider participation in this study.

**What is this study about?**
Following a stroke, many patients are left with some loss of sensation on the affected side of their body. Some work has shown that reduced sensation can be altered using a visual illusion. We need to explore several aspects related to such alteration. We would like to see whether touching one limb (or a substitute rubber limb) in a healthy person creates any sensation elsewhere in the body, especially whether, when and how people respond, and how they feel about it. The results will help us design a later study with chronic stroke patients. This may lead to improved treatment in the future.

**Can I take part in this study?**
If you are interested in participating, we will talk to you to find out whether we can include you. We are recruiting adult volunteers who do not have any form of sensory impairment (altered feeling on the skin) or psychological issues with skin testing across their body including face, shoulder, trunk, hip, arms and legs.

**Who is leading the research study and what are their qualifications?**
My name is Annegret Hagenberg and I am a qualified and chartered physiotherapist specialised in neurological treatment. This study is part of my PhD with the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Leicester.


**What will I have to do?**
If you wish to participate after a discussion and clarification of all questions, we will agree on the appointment. You are welcome to bring a second person along. We will ask you to fill out the consent form and a baseline data sheet. You will undergo a physical examination of your sensation where we will use clean brushes.

You will also be asked to fill in some personality questionnaires which should take less than 20 minutes. The following experiment uses clean brushes on hands and feet. We will also use rubber limbs, a special pair of trousers, a visual illusion and light pressure applied manually. We will audio-record your response and may ask a few participants for permission to take a photo for scientific presentations, publications and teaching.

You will be expected to attend for one face-to-face session of about two hours at the University or at a scheduled community venue and wear shorts or skirt and vest or T-shirt for the assessment specified above.

Within three weeks we would like to have a follow-up conversation with you in person or via telephone and then our study control person will contact you to verify the outcome. In case of unclear data the research team will then double-check with you.

**What are the benefits and risks?**
You may feel sensations on your body but these should not be bothersome, nor should they last longer than the time you spend with us. In the unlikely event of unpleasant sensations being evoked or persisting, we offer face-to-face sessions within the following six weeks with the aim to reverse those.

**Will I be paid?**
There is no payment for participation but refreshments will be provided.

**Do I have to participate?**
No. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the project at any point before the end of data collection. Should you prefer your data to be removed, please put this request in writing and email it to us within two weeks after the experiment. After data collection is completed, the data cannot be removed.
**Will my information be kept confidential?**
On agreeing to participate, you will be assigned a code. Your personal data will be kept locked in a secure place at the University in accordance with the University of Leicester data governance policies: [http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ias/dp/data-protection](http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ias/dp/data-protection).

**What will happen to the results of this study?**
The anonymised results from this study may be published, presented at conferences, used for teaching, and may also be made available for further research. For outcomes of this study please contact the researcher.

**What if I have a complaint?**
If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak with Annegret Hagenberg. You can also contact her PhD Supervisor Professor Thompson Robinson via email on tgr2@le.ac.uk or phone 0116 204 4758. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive from Professor Robinson, then there is a formal university complaints procedure. In the first instance write to the chair of the Medicine and Biological Sciences research ethics committee, currently Dr. Chris Talbot (cjt14@le.ac.uk).

**Who has reviewed the study?**
This study has obtained ethics approval from the College of Medicine Biological Sciences and Psychology Committee for Research Ethics Concerning Human Subjects (Non-NHS) (17112-ah413-ss/hp:history). Approval does not guarantee that you will not come to any harm if you take part. However, approval means that the committee is satisfied that your rights will be respected, that the study carries no more than minimal risk, and that you have been given sufficient information on which to make an informed decision.

**Contact for further information**
If you have any questions or queries about this research project please view the page [www.le.ac.uk/rubberhands](http://www.le.ac.uk/rubberhands) and contact Annegret Hagenberg on the details given above.

**Thank you very much for considering participation.**

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