



# Endopart

Endometriosis: Improving the well-being of couples

## Study begins

### Issue 1

April 2012

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Welcome to the first Endopart newsletter, a study to explore the impact of endometriosis on couples.

Endometriosis is a relatively common, disabling gynaecological condition affecting up to 2 million women in the UK alone. Common symptoms are chronic pelvic pain, fatigue, heavy periods, and a deep pain experienced during sexual intercourse. Despite the chronic and potentially disabling nature of endometriosis, along with its impact on many aspects of life, there has been relatively little research into the impact of endometriosis on couples and on male partners.

Endopart is a qualitative study in three phases.

Phase one is a contextual phase consisting of interviews with key informants including healthcare providers, patients, and support group representatives, and a literature review.

Phase two will consist of separate in-depth interviews with women living with endometriosis and with their male partners. We anticipate recruiting 15 - 20 couples for 30 - 40 interviews. Our sample will include men and women from both White and South Asian groups.

Phase three brings together the findings of phases one and two for discussion at a 'dialogue workshop' of key stakeholders.

The overall aims of the study are to contribute to improving the well-being of people living with endometriosis by providing an evidence base for improving couple support, and to contribute to the understanding of chronic illnesses.

More details on the study can be found at [www.endopart.co.uk](http://www.endopart.co.uk).

The study is overseen by an advisory group made up of healthcare professionals, academics, service users and their partners, and support group representatives.

Endopart is an 18 month study, beginning in February 2012 and concluding in July 2013. The study is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

# Involvement in the research

Between April and September 2012 the research team will be seeking to carry out interviews with women with endometriosis and their male partners to explore how couples are affected both on a day-to-day basis and also in terms of the care they receive.

We are interested in talking to heterosexual couples:

- who have been living together for at least one year,
- where the woman has experienced endometriosis-related symptoms for at least one year and
- where the woman has a diagnosis of endometriosis following laparoscopy.

If you and your partner are living with endometriosis and would be interested in finding out more, visit [www.endopart.co.uk](http://www.endopart.co.uk) or contact Caroline Law (contact details below).

## Meet the team...



Prof Lorraine Culley  
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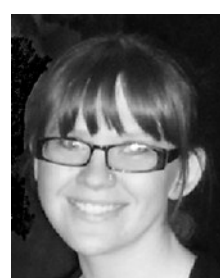
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## Contact us

To find out more about the study visit [www.endopart.co.uk](http://www.endopart.co.uk) or contact Caroline Law on 0116 2506124 or at [claw@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:claw@dmu.ac.uk). If you are aware of anyone who you think would be willing to be involved in the study please advise them to visit the study website or to contact us.