

Appendix A.

Information and verbal instructions given to participants by the researchers upon their visit to the lab

Please note that all information provided below is an English translation of the Dutch text. Before the research visit participants were instructed about the experiment in the informed consent. They were informed that the following procedure would take place:

- *First you complete a one-time questionnaire about your background and your personality.*
- *On both visits:*
 - *we will have you complete a questionnaire about how you are feeling at the moment.*
 - *you use a nasal spray that contains either a fake medicine (placebo) or oxytocin.*
 - *you have a conversation with a doctor via the computer. During this conversation, we measure your pupil size with a device, an eye tracker, which is located under the computer screen.*
- *Complete a questionnaire in which we ask about your impression of the meeting*

In the informed consent participants received a schematic overview of the study, similar to Figure 1.

During the research visit the researchers were following a script with precise instructions on how to (inter)act. Below we show the excerpt illustrating the verbal communication just before the start of the experiment, please note that the original text was in Dutch:

Welcome to the research room. Sit down on this chair. During the examination, I read the instructions on paper to ensure that the examination proceeds as standard as possible and not to forget anything.

I will briefly tell you what will happen today. You will first fill in a number of questionnaires on the computer. Then you will get a nasal spray and you will have to wait a while. You may then read some magazines that are ready for you. You are not supposed to be on your mobile. Then you will have a Skype conversation with a doctor. Finally, you will fill in a number of questionnaires. I have

an information letter about the study here. You should have already received this by email, but you can now read it carefully and quietly. If you have any questions, you can ask me later. Let me know when you're done.

After the verbal instructions, we anticipated on possible questions and scripted responses. Most of the communication was through standardized text printed out on paper, ensuring that all participants received the same amount of information.