CORRESPONDENCE

Visual limitations assessment in patients with glaucoma

EDITOR—It is well known that patients with glaucoma develop field defects in their field of vision. It is generally assumed that these defects interfere with the affected individual's visual function.

This study explored the relation between visual field loss and the perception of visual disabilities in patients with glaucoma. A questionnaire designed to identify vision associated limitations in daily activities (VALDA, Table 1) was applied to 231 patients with glaucoma who had reliable computerised visual field examination with the Humphrey 24–2 program.14 Visual field loss was quantitatively evaluated (*"mean deviation" (MD) and "standard deviation" (PSD)). The relation between the presence of VALDA and visual field defects, visual acuity, and age was investigated.

There were 91 (39.4%) males and 140 (60.6%) females. The ages ranged from 13–90 years, with a mean age of 68.5 (SD 12.6) years. Most patients were white (n=213, 92.2%) and 18 (7.7%) were black. The mean duration since the diagnosis of glaucoma was 8.7 (SD 8.1) years (range 1–40). Ninety-eight subjects (42%) reported a subjective perception of vision associated limitations in daily activities. Among the limitations mentioned by these patients, problems with night driving ranked first (97%) followed by difficulties reading newspapers (33%), and driving at any time (27%); limitations doing outdoor activities were present in 10%. The perception of VALDA was related to visual acuity and was significantly greater in older patients.

We analysed in patients with visual acuity better than or equal to 20/40 in both eyes (127 patients) the relation between the visual field defects and the VALDA score (Table 2). The perception of VALDA was related to the MD loss in both eyes, but not to the PSD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Questionnaire to evaluate vision associated limitations in daily activities (VALDA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a problem with:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) poor vision that cannot be corrected with glasses?</td>
<td>(2) driving at night?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) driving during the day?</td>
<td>(4) watching television?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) recognising people?</td>
<td>(6) seeing traffic signs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) reading newspapers?</td>
<td>(8) seeing steps?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) bumping into things?</td>
<td>(10) doing daily activities at home?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) doing outdoor activities?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each item had four possible answers: always, frequently, seldom, or never. VALDA was considered to be present when the answer was "always" or "frequently" in more than two of the items. Ordinal values were assigned to the responses (always or frequently = 1, seldom or never = 0). Limitation in daily activities was considered present when the score of VALDA was more than one. |  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2</th>
<th>Relation between amount of visual field loss in both eyes and perception of VALDA in patients with visual acuity better than or equal to 20/40 in both eyes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual field</td>
<td>% Of patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in both eyes</td>
<td>referring VALDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N, N)</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N, +)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+, +)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N, +)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+, +)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+, +)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N, N)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+, +)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Visual field loss was separated into four groups by mean deviation (MD): (1) N = normal (MD = <2.6 dB); (2) + = 2.6 dB<MD = <9.5 dB; (3) ++ = 9.5 dB<MD = <18.5 dB; and (4) +++ = MD >18.5 dB.

Each item had four possible answers: always, frequently, seldom, or never. VALDA was considered present when the score of VALDA was more than one.

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REFERENCES


9 Elowein LB, Fletcher A, Negrel AD, et al. Quality of life assessment in blindness prevention interventional nature of the way to advise the modern lens wearer in the balance between ease of use, safety to the cornea, and reliability of the lens in the less than perfect hands of the wearer, and it attempts to define a paradigm for lens wear for the future with current available lens materials.

Divided into two sections, the shorter Section I concentrates on the essential and relevant anatomy and physiology of the cornea and preconical tear film. There is also a good introductory chapter on corneal topography. Each chapter is concise, clearly set out, and well illustrated and there is reference to and presentation of experimental evidence for the information provided. It provides an excellent introduction to the second section.

Section II concentrates on the development of the concept of disposable contact lens. The opening chapter is long, but very readable as it traces the evolution of the contact lens, from original glass to modern materials, and manufacturing methods with some perspective on the commercial decisions behind the lens designs. There is a summary appendix defining the milestones for the reader who may not wish to wade through the whole chapter.

The other chapters address the modern demands of contact lens design, patient preferences, safety, and complications. In an

BOOK REVIEW


In the preface of this book, the aim of promoting the safe use of contact lenses is stated. The text complements this by reason used of the scientific literature, and addresses the philosophical nature of the way to advise the modern lens wearer in the balance between ease of use, safety to the cornea, and reliability of the lens in the less than perfect hands of the wearer, and it attempts to define a paradigm for lens wear for the future with current available lens materials.
Primary Eye Care

The latest issue of the Community Eye Health Journal (no 26) discusses the importance of primary eye care, particularly in the developing world. For further information please contact Community Eye Health, International Centre for Eye Health, Institute of Ophthalmology, 11–43 Bath Street, London ECI1 9EL. (Tel: (+44) 171 608 6910; fax: (+44) 171 250 3207; email: eyeresource@ucl.ac.uk) Annual subscription £25. Free to workers in developing countries.

Residents' Foreign Exchange Programme

Any resident interested in spending a period of up to one month in departments of ophthalmology in the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, or Portugal should apply to: Mr Robert Acheson, Secretary of the Foreign Exchange Committee, European Board of Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College Dublin, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

Correspondence, Book reviews, Notices

NOTICES

Ophthalmological Clinical, University of Creteil

The 3rd international symposium will be held on 21 November 1998 at the Ophthalmological Clinical, University of Creteil. Further details: Professor G Soubrane, Chef de Service, Clinique Ophthalmologique Universitaire de Creteil, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, 40 Avenue de Verdun, 94010 Creteil, France. Fax: 01 45 17 52 27.

Vith International Symposium on Graves' Ophthalmopathy

The Vth International Symposium on Graves' Ophthalmopathy will be held on 27-28 November 1998 in Amsterdam. Further details: Amsterdam Thyroid Club, Department of Endocrinology, F 5-171, Academisch Medisch Centrum, Meibergdreef 9, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium 98

The Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium 98 on myopia will be held on 28-29 November 1998 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Further details: Dr Ip Yuen-ling, Chairman, Organising Committee, Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium 98, University Centre East, 3/F, Hong Kong Eye Hospital, 147 KArgyle Street, Kowloon. (Tel: (852) 2761 9128; fax: (852) 2715 0089; email: cohk@netvigator.com)

Singapore National Eye Centre

The 3rd SNEC international meeting and 11th international meeting on cataract, implant, microsurgery and refractive kerato-plasty (ICMRK) will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore on 28–30 November 1998. Further details: Organising Secretariat, 3rd SNEC International Meeting and 11th ICMRM, Singapore National Eye Centre Pte Ltd, 11 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168751. (Tel: (65) 2277-255; fax: (65) 2277-290/1)

Office of Continuing Medical Education

The 11th Annual Wilmer Institute’s Current Concepts in Ophthalmology will be held on 10-12 December 1998 at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Further details: Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Medical Education, Turner 20/720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. (Tel: (410) 955-2959; fax: (410) 614-8613; email: cmenet@som.adm.jhu.edu)


The American Academy of Ophthalmology, Academy ’98 will be held on 10-14 December 1998 at the San Francisco Hilton and Towers, San Francisco, California, USA. The call for abstracts may be requested at (301) 984-1441 or meetings@aaoptom.org or on the web site www.aaopt.org

7th Rotterdam International Skull Base Day/Esser course

The 7th Rotterdam International Skull Base Day/Esser one day course on orbital and peri-orbital lesions will be held on 23 January 1999. Further details: Mrs K Sipman, POBox 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, Netherlands. (Tel: +31 10 4089778; fax: +31 10 4362762)

Ophthalmological technologies

The 9th Ophthalmic Technology Conference will be held on 23–24 January 1999 during the International SPIE symposium on biomedical optics. Further information: The SPIE Organisation, PO Box, Bellingham, WA 98227-0010, USA. (Fax: (+1) 360-647-1445; email: www.spie.org/infopw)

Laser eye injuries

A conference on the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and therapy of laser eye injuries will be held in San Jose, California on 25–26 January 1999 during the International SPIE symposium on biomedical optics. Further information: The SPIE Organisation, PO Box, Bellingham, WA 98227-0010, USA. (Fax: (+1) 360-647-1445; email: www.spie.org/infopw)

Office of Continuing Medical Education

The 21st Annual Wilmer Institute’s Current Concepts in Ophthalmology will be held on 4-9 February 1999 at the Hyatt Regency Corromar Beach Hotel, Dorado, Puerto Rico. Further details: Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Medical Education, Turner 20/720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. (Tel: (410) 955-2959; fax: (410) 614-8613; email: cmenet@som.adm.jhu.edu)

XVII Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress

The XVII Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress will be held in Manila, Philippines on 7-12 March 1998. Its theme is “Ophthalmology in the Asia Pacific Region for the 21st century”, the main topics being Cataract, Infection and inflammation, Glaucoma, and Vitreoretinal disease. Further details: Secretariat, Philippine College of Surgeons’ Building, 3/F, 992 North EDSA, 1105 Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. (Tel: (632) 927-2317 or (632) 925-3789; fax: (62) 924-6550; email: pao@pao.org.ph)

Office of Continuing Medical Education

The 16th Annual Wilmer Institute’s Current Concepts in Ophthalmology will be held on 14–19 March 1999 at the Manoor Vail Lodge, Vail, Colorado, USA. Further details: Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Office of Continuing Medical Education, Turner 20/720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA. (Tel: (410) 955-2959; fax: (410) 614-8613; email: cmenet@som.adm.jhu.edu)

Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Creteil

An international symposium on the macula will be held on 26–27 March 1999 at the Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Creteil. Further details: Professor G Soubrane, Chef de Service, Clinique Ophthalmologique Universitaire de Creteil, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, 40 Avenue de Verdun, 94010 Creteil, France. Fax: 01 45 17 52 27.
XII Congress European Society of Ophthalmology
The XII Congress European Society of Ophthalmology will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 27 June–1 July 1999. Further details: Congress (Sweden) AB, PO Box 5819, S-114 86 Stockholm, Sweden. (Tel: +46 8 459 66 00; fax: +46 8 661 91 25; email: soe@congrex.se; http://www.congrex.com/soe/)

4th Meeting of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
The 4th meeting of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society will be held on 29 August–2 September 1999 in Jerusalem, Israel. Further details: Secretariat, 4th Meeting of the European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv, 61500, Israel. (Tel: 972-3-514000; fax: 972-3-5175674/972-3-5140077; email: Eunos99@kenes.com)

Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Creteil
An international symposium on the macula will be held on 1–2 October 1999 at the Ophthalmological Clinic, University of Creteil. Further details: Professor G. Soubrane, Chef de Service, Clinique Ophthalmologique Universitaire de Creteil, Centre Hospitalier Inter-communal, 40 Avenue de Verdun, 94010 Creteil, France. Fax: 01 45 17 52 27.

Jules François Prize
The 2000 Jules François Prize of $100 000 for scientific research in ophthalmology will be awarded to a young scientist who has made an important contribution to ophthalmology. All topics in the field of fundamental and/or clinical research in ophthalmology will be considered. The application should be sent jointly with a curriculum vitae, the list of all publications, and three copies of the candidate’s 10 most relevant publications to Jules François Foundation Secretary, Professor Dr M. Hanssens, Dienst Oogheelkunde, de Pintelaan 185, B-9000 Gent, Belgium. Deadline for applications 31 December 1999.
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