

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo PIBIC

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Service (sector)
Low Vision

Nº CEP

Compliance with to treatment with optical aids in low vision patients.

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Purpose: A survey was undertaken to determine the compliance of low vision patients to treatment with optical aids.

Methods: From January 1999 to December 1999, 322 patients were assessed in the Low Vision Clinic at the Dept. of Ophthalmology of UNIFESP. Optical aids were prescribed for 155 patients (48.8%) after undertaking a complete exam including: visual acuity measurement for near and distance, functional vision evaluation and ophthalmologic assessment. A telephone survey was carried out 6 months after the first use of the prescribed optical aid. Information about the use of the prescribed treatment was taken: whether the optical aid has been used or not, causes of non usage, what were the activities performed with the optical aid, frequency of optical aid usage, etc.

Results: The telephonic interview was applied in to 60/155 patients (38.7%). The prescribed optical aid had been used by 42 patients (70%). Near optical aids were most frequently used than distant ones, mainly for reading. Out of the 42 patients, 40 were satisfied with the prescribed optical aid. In the remaining 18 patients who were not using the prescribed optical aid, 11 (61.1%) had no financial conditions to purchase it, 6 (33.3%) had difficulties in managing the optical aid and 1 (5.6%) had severe decrease in visual acuity due to disease progression.

Conclusion: Compliance with treatment with optical aids of 70% was found in this group of low vision patients. The majority of patients who failed to comply with the treatment were due to low income. To help these patients a loan program has been created. A few patients who had difficulties to manage the prescribed optical aid were re-scheduled to be re-evaluated.