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Service (sector) Electrophysiology N° CEP

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A computerized program for visual acuity screening in school age children.

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This paper will present our current project started in association with the Department of Informatics in Health and the Department of Ophthalmology from UNIFESP/EPM.

Purpose: To elaborate and validate a computerized program for visual acuity screening of school age children through the Internet.

Methods: Our main interests were based on the facility and simplicity for the application and accuracy of the computerized test. For maximum standardization of the test task we chose to design a computerized chart with the same number of letters on each row and uniform between-letter and between-row spacing in a logarithmic progression of the Tumble E Letter Computerized Chart. When the Pilot Program was finished, we went to Bauru - S.P. and 63 students had their visual acuity tested by this program. Inclusion criteria were 7 years of age and informed consent obtained from parents. The Snellen E Chart with Linear progression was also performed on the same visit and was considered, at this pilot phase, as our gold standard for clinical validation.

Results: Visual Acuity results obtained with the computerized program showed 80% of perfect agreement when compared with the Snellen E Chart. All children showed an enormous interest and preference for the computerized program.

Conclusion: For understanding the reliability of this method as an extra clinical tool for visual acuity assessment, we are going to repeat the visual acuity test of children and also adults to compare the results with the Illiterate Visual Acuity Chart " Tumble E" the best gold standard.