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Service (sector) Retina and Vitreous Nº CEP

## STARGARDT DISEASE: CLINICAL FINDINGS

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PURPOSE: To assess visual acuity impairment in Stargardt disease. METHODS: Complete ophthalmological examination including past medical history and family history, measurement of visual acuity, fundus examination and retinography was performed in 18 individuals with Stargardt disease. Diagnoses was based on clinical finding of a atrophic-appearing macular lesion surrounded by yellow-white flecks. Patients were separated into groups according to age, visual acuity and retinal examination findings. They were classified into four arbitrary age groups according to their age, and the level of their visual acuity was determined. RESULTS: Patients ranged between 8 and 48 years old. Ten patients were 20 years or less, 7 ranged from 21 to 40 years, and 2 from 41 to 60 years. Including all subjects, 3 (17%) had 20/40 or better acuity in at least one eye, 3 (17%) 20/50 to 20/100, and 6 (34%) 20/200 to 20/400, whereas 6 (34%) had worse than 20/400. Assessing the impairment of visual acuity within the age groups, 7 patients among 9 who were 20 years or less had visual acuity worse than 20/200 compared with 4 among 7 within the 21 to 40 age group. Fundus findings demonstrated maculopathy in 15 patients, and 12 of them presented visual acuity worse than 20/200. Fourteen patients presented flecks, and 11 presented flecks associated with maculopathy. CONCLUSION: Our results indicate that most of the patients with Stargardt disease had vision of 20/200 or worse during early ages of life. Maculopathy and flecks are common findings, and the presence of maculopathy was associated with a higher prevalence of 20/200 or worse visual acuity.