( ) R1 ( ) R2 ( ) R3 ( ) PG0 ( ) PG1 ( ) Estagiário (X) Tecnólogo ( ) PIBIC Last Name - Lemos First Name -   Rafael Middle - da Silva

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SELF-REPORTED VISUAL FUNCTION ASSESSED BY VFQ-20 IN PATIENTS WITH SEVERAL DEGREES OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

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PURPOSE: To understand the negative impact of the visual impairment/blindness in daily life activities and its associated mental welfare it is necessary obtain information that goes beyond visual acuity measurement. Interviews in representative populations of affected individuals using a standardized questionnaire will supply the base on which a multidimensional characterization of the implications caused by visual impairment/blindness in visual functioning and quality of life. The NEI-VFQ (Questionnaire of Visual Function of the "National Eye Institute") was created to assess limitations, mainly in the cases where the patient has normal visual acuity, but exactly thus is unsatisfied with its welfare because of the vision. The purpose of this study is to administer and analyze self-reported visual function assessed by VFQ-20 questionnaire in patients with several degrees of visual impairment. **METHODS:** A group of 92 patients of Institute of Vision of UNIFESP was included according to the following criteria: age ≥25 years, informed consent, absence of cognitive deficit and previous diagnosis of an eye condition. Demographic data (age, gender, educational level) were collected by a quick interview. Binocular visual acuity was measured both for near and distance using the ETDRS chart and with the patient's optical correction (if used) **RESULTS:** Visual acuity distribution was: 36 (39.1%) ³20/25, 32 (34.8%) £20/32 and ³20/63, 13 (14.1%) £20/80 and ³20/160, 7 (7.6%) £20/200 and ³20/400 and 4 (4.4%)< 20/1000. In the 36 participants with near normal or normal VA, only 14 (38.9%) had classified its vision using eyeglasses or lenses of contact as excellent or good. Of the 4 individuals with serious visual deficiency (VA<20/1000) 1 (25%) considered its own vision as good. On the other hand, in a more specific question such as the degree of visual difficulty in recognizing a familiar person at a distance of 20 meters, in the 36 with near normal/normal VA , 23 (63.9%) have no difficulty and of the in the 4 participants with severe visual impairment, all (100%) reported extreme difficulty in this task. **CONCLUSIONS:** There was no direct relationship between visual acuity and self-reported visual status but there was good agreement in specific visual tasks. VFQ-20 is a useful instrument to assess multidimensional aspects of visual function and further research is needed to evaluate additional aspects of this instrument and its usefulness in clinical settings.