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Service (sector) Epidemiology - Retina N° CEP

Ocular Findings in Patients older than 99 years

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ABSTRACT Purpose: To determine vision conditions and ocular findings in patients older than 99 years. **Methods:** Patients were recruited by media advertisement and examined at the Vision Institute of the UNIFESP. The following exams were performed: visual acuity, ectoscopy, refraction, biomicroscopy, tear film break-up time (BUT), Schirmer basal test, tonometry, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy. Complementary exams such as optical coherence tomography were performed when indicated. **Results:** Thirty-eight patients older than 99 years were identified. Mean age of 101.54 ± 1.41 , 32 (84.2%) females and 6 (15.7%) males. Twenty-three patients had been already examined 87% females; 8 (21%) waiting to be examined and 7 (18%) died before the exam. Most common systemic disease, according to history, was arterial hypertension present in 11 (47.8%) patients. In 16 patients (69.5%), the Best Corrected far Visual Acuity (BCFVA) was of 20/150 or better. The Best Corrected near Visual Acuity (BCNVA) was J4 or better in 12 patients (52.2%). The most frequent visual complaint was low vision (56.5%) especially for reading. Twelve patients (52.2%) had previous cataract surgery a total of 20 eyes (5 eyes aphakic, 15 eyes pseudophakic); lens opacity was present in the other 26 eyes from the total of 46. Cataract was identified as important in impairing vision in 7 patients (63.6%) but just 4 (36.4%) of them wanted to operate it. The main cause of visual impairment was age related macular degeneration (AMD), present in all patients, 22 (95.6%) with no exudative form. Fourteen patients (60.9%) received new refraction prescription; long vision improved in 11 (78.6%) patients and near vision improved in 7 (50%) patients. **Conclusion:** Once we understand the needs we can plan specific diagnostic and treatment strategies. This sample showed that most were female (84.2%), with good general health, most with systemic blood hypertension (47.8%), complaining from low vision (56.5%) specially for reading because of age related macular degeneration (100%), 95.6% dry form. Most patients had been previously submitted to cataract surgery (52.2%). Most of the patients with cataract said to be satisfied with their vision; from the 7 patients that could operate just 4 decided to do it. Low vision for reading, AMD and cataract were the main findings.