

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo (X)
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Service (sector) Low Vision - Department of Ophthalmology - UNIFESP N°
CEP

**Optical aids prescribed in 25 years at the Low Vision Clinic of the
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Purpose: The term "subnormal vision" was created in the second half of century XX and before that the majority of the health professionals gave little attention to this subject because at that time low vision patients were referred to schools of blind to learn Braille. In rehabilitation the use of optical aids can improve the visual efficiency of low vision that is defined as loss of the visual function (visual acuity, visual field, contrast sensitivity, color vision) which persists even after refraction and/or clinical or surgical treatment of the ocular disease.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to determine the frequency of the diseases and the optical aids prescribed to referred patients to a Low Vision Clinic.

Methods: Survey of 5804 patients' files from the Low Vision Clinic at the Department of Ophthalmology of UNIFESP from 1979 to 2004 were performed to verify the incidence of the diseases and the prescribed optical aid.

Results: Among 5,804 patients, 1,952 (34%) were children (zero to 18 years old), 1,818 (31%) were adult (nineteen to 50 years old) and 2,034 (35%) were aged (above 50 years old). Among 1,952 children, toxoplasmic macular retinochoroiditis scar were seen in 615 (31%). Among 1,818 adult patients, retinitis pigmentosa were seen in 286 (16 %) and among 2,034 aged patients, age-related macular degeneration were seen in 904 (44%). The monocular telescope was the most prescribed optical aid both in children (77%) and in adults (32%). Among the elderly the most prescribed optical aid was the base-in prismatic lenses (39% of the total of the prescriptions).

Conclusion: Low vision aids for distance was the most prescribed for children and for reading was the most prescribed for the aged adults.