

Visual functioning for patients with age-related macular degeneration compared to patients with visually significant cataracts

Visual function in AMD versus cataracts

Authors

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Abstract

Purpose: To compare Visual Functioning Questionnaire-25 (VFQ) response data in patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) to patients with cataracts.

Methods: We identified 415 individuals with early or intermediate AMD and 236 patients with visually significant cataracts who completed the VFQ-25 from a single academic eye center registry between July 2014 and May 2022. Two-sample t-tests were used to compare VFQ composite scores between groups when stratified by habitual visual acuity. The effect of disease (AMD versus cataract) on VFQ composite score was analyzed using univariate and multivariable linear regression, controlling for age, race/ethnicity, history of transient ischemic attack (TIA)/stroke, and visual acuity.

Results: The VFQ composite score was higher in the AMD group (mean 88.8 (SD:10.7) vs. 82.8 (SD:14.5), $p<0.001$). All vision-related and socio-emotional subscales had significantly higher scores among AMD compared to cataract patients. When adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, history of TIA/stroke, better-eye visual acuity, and worse-eye visual acuity, patients with cataracts had a 3.3-point lower VFQ composite score (95% CI: -5.3 to -1.4, $p<0.001$) compared to patients with AMD.

Conclusions: In this study, patients with early or intermediate AMD reported higher visual functioning compared to patients with cataracts in composite score and all VFQ subscale categories in both unadjusted and adjusted analyses.