

Overview:

The Visual Function Index (VF-14) is a brief questionnaire designed to measure functional impairment on patients due to cataract. It consists of 18 questions covering 14 aspects of visual function affected by cataracts. The VF-14 shows high internal consistency and is a reliable, valid instrument providing information not conveyed by visual acuity or general health status measures.

General Functioning

- (1) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, reading small print, such as labels on medicine bottles, a telephone book, food labels?
- (2) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, reading a newspaper or a book?
- (3) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, reading a large-print book or large-print newspaper or numbers on a telephone?
- (4) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, recognizing people when they are close to you?
- (5) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, seeing steps, stairs or curbs?
- (6) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, reading traffic signs, street signs, or store signs?
- (7) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, doing fine handwork like sewing, knitting, crocheting, carpentry?
- (8) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, writing checks or filling out forms?
- (9) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, playing games such as bingo, dominos, card games, mahjong?
- (10) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, taking part in sports like bowling, handball, tennis, golf?
- (11) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, cooking?
- (12) Do you have any difficulty, even with glasses, watching television?

| Response | Points |
|---|---------------|
| not applicable | |
| no | 4 |
| yes, with a little difficulty | 3 |
| yes, with a moderate amount of difficulty | 2 |
| yes, with a great deal of difficulty | 1 |
| yes, and am unable to do the activity | 0 |

Driving

(13) Do you currently drive a car?

if Yes, go to 14

if No, go to 16

(14) How much difficulty do you have driving during the day because of your vision?

no difficulty (4 points)

a little difficulty (3 points)

a moderate amount of difficulty (2 points)

a great deal of difficulty (1 point)

(15) How much difficulty do you have driving at night because of your vision?

no difficulty (4 points)

a little difficulty (3 points)

a moderate amount of difficulty (2 points)

a great deal of difficulty (1 point)

(16) Have you ever driven a car?

if Yes, go to 17

if No, stop

(17) When did you stop driving?

less than 6 months ago

6-12 months ago

more than 12 months ago

(18) Why did you stop driving?

vision

other illness

other reason

Scoring

An item is not included in scoring if the person does not do the activity for some reason other than their vision.

Scores on all activities that the person performed or did not perform because of vision were then averaged, yielding a value from 0 to 4.

This value was multiplied by 25, giving a final score from 0 to 100.

a score of 100 indicates able to do all applicable activities

a score of 0 indicates unable to do all applicable activities because of vision

References:

Parrish RK II. Visual impairment, visual functioning, and quality of life assessments in patients with glaucoma. *Trans Am Ophth Soc.* 1996; 94: 919-1028 (page 924).

Steinberg EP, Tielsch JM, et al. The VF-14, An index of functional impairment in patients with cataract. *Arch Ophthalmol.* 1994; 112: 630-638.