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Individualised Quality of Life (QoL) and Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaires for People with Eye Conditions: EyeDQoL and EyeTSQ Design

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AIMS: To design an individualised QoL measure and a treatment satisfaction (TS) measure for people with eye conditions.

METHODS: A first draft of the EyeDQoL was based on QoL measures for people with retinopathy and macular degeneration (MD); both included overview and domain-specific items. Ratings of the condition's impact on domains of life (-3: max. negative impact to 1: positive impact) and each domain's importance for the individual's QoL (3: very important to 0: not at all important) are multiplied to give an individual's weighted impact score (WI) for each applicable domain (-9 to 3). A first draft of the EyeTSQ was based on several TS measures; all use rating scales from 6 (e.g. very satisfied) to 0 (e.g. very dissatisfied). Drafts were modified following 34 patient interviews in the UK and Germany. Diagnoses included glaucoma, cataract, retinopathy and MD.

RESULTS: Visual acuities ranged from 3/60 to 6/5; 17/34 patients had two or more eye conditions. In both measures, participants tick applicable eye conditions and specify any other eye conditions not listed. The EyeDQoL has overview items on 1) present QoL in general and 2) eye condition-specific QoL and 23 items on aspects commonly impacted by eye conditions and important for interviewees' QoL. Leisure activities, shopping and physical ability were most impacted (mean WI -4.5 to -4.2); finances was least impacted (-0.7). No new domains were needed. The EyeTSQ covers aspects of treatment in 14 items including 3 optional ones for eye drops. Mean ratings of core items ranged from 2.9 (apprehension) to 5.0 (discomfort/pain).

CONCLUSIONS: Measures for various and multiple eye conditions have been designed in English and German based on related measures and interviews with patients. Strong negative impact on QoL is indicated and domain-specific impact shown. Patients tended to be satisfied with treatment. The measures are now being used to evaluate anti-VEGF injections in MD and retinopathy and cataract surgery in patients with MD.