



CONTINUING
EDUCATION & TRAINING

Low Vision In High St Practice

The Importance Of Understanding Low Vision In Practice

- Currently over 2 million in UK suffering some degree of sight loss
- It is predicted that this will double over the next few decades
- NHS funding cuts
- Current long waiting lists
- Difficult pathways

Manifestations Of Sight Loss

- Central field loss
- Periferal field loss
- General reduction in accuity without field loss
- Fixation difficulties
- Light Scatter

Solutions

The types of sight loss that manifest with low vision conditions present numerous challenges for Low Vision Patients and it is our job to provide solutions to overcome those obstacles.

These can include:

- Refraction
- Lighting
- Magnification
- Filters
- Viewing Techniques

Refraction

The first problem to overcome is refractive error. To get the best results from whichever low vision aid the patient is going to use, we need to ensure they have the best possible vision to assist. However, refraction can often be difficult and sometimes overlooked.

Discussion Points:

- Difficulties in using refraction with low vision conditions
- Importance of refraction in LV dispensing
- -Barriers to accurate refraction and px objections

Optical Low Vision Aids: How to identify the right LVA for the right person for the right task:

After ensuring the best possible refraction for the patient we need to identify the right LVA for the patient. With a wide range of LVA's available it is essential that we understand the features and benefits to the patient of each type.

Discussion Points:

- What influences your choice of LVA?
- What types of LVA are available and how do they differ?
- How does the task affect the choice of LVA?

Electronic LVA's. How can LV patients benefit from these?

There are several types of electronic LVA's available to today's LV patients. These can be either specially designed LVA's or common electrical devices that people have adapted through using various functions or apps. But how can our LV patients benefit from their use?

Discussion Points:

- What kind of electronic LVA's are available?
- What kind of tasks are they suitable for?
- Are there any barriers to effective use?

Summary

Understanding Low Vision is more than just understanding the pathology associated with the condition. As Eyecare Professionals we need to understand how Low Vision affects the patient both in terms of the difficulties they face with specific tasks and with how it can affect their well being and mental health.

Low Vision conditions create many challenges and it is up to us to provide solutions to these problems so our LV patients can use the most of their usable vision and continue to lead happy and independent lives.

These may be recommendations for LVA's or sometimes just little tips and hacks that could make a tricky task a little bit easier.