

Impact of cataracts and cataract surgery on quality of vision

Impacto da catarata e da cirurgia de catarata na qualidade da visão

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We read with interest the letter to the editor by Fazzi and colleagues who report a negative correlation between anxiety (measured with the IDATE) and quality of life (measured with the WHO-QOL-BREF) in 52 patients with cataracts.¹ They state: “*This finding corroborates previous studies that have demonstrated low quality-of-life scores among patients with cataracts²...*”

We would like to clarify that the cited paper did not assess quality of life in patients with cataracts and hence did not demonstrate low quality-of-life scores among patients with cataracts.² The study assessed a different latent trait – quality of vision, using the Rasch-scaled Quality of Vision (QoV) questionnaire.^{3,4} The QoV was completed before and three months after cataract surgery in 212 patients across four groups: first or second eye surgery, with or without ocular comorbidity. The study found that cataracts in one or both eyes causes a similar loss in subjective quality of vision, which is also irrespective of the presence of ocular comorbidity. Cataract surgery resulted in a large and comparable improvement in subjective quality of vision, regardless of ocular comorbidity and first or second eye surgery.² These improvements in quality of vision are in line with improvements using visual function and quality of life questionnaires following cataract surgery, which may indicate a relationship between these latent traits.^{5,6}

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