Visual Disability Assessment (VDA)

STARS Public Cataract/Intraocular Lens Surgery Service

Purpose of the VDA:

The VDA is to be performed by the referring Optometrist with their patient if the patient is motivated for cataract surgery based on visual disability, but visual acuity is as per category 3 criteria for STARS cataract referrals. Please ensure the final score is included in the referral to assist with appropriate referral triaging.

How to perform the VDA:
The patient is asked: "To what extent if, at all, does your vision interfere with your ability to carry out the following activities?" The patient is asked to take into account both the degree to which they can perform each task as well as the extra effort involved. Assessment of visual disability is done for both eyes open and habitual spectacle correction is worn. The scoring system is included.

Final score:
Add all the numerical scores together and divide by the number of questions answered. If a patient is unable to answer a question, you must exclude this from the score, for example; if all 18 questions are answered then the sum of the answers is divided by 18. If the individual has never driven a car, two questions cannot be answered and the sum of the answers is divided by 16 (18–2).

Activity	Not at all (1)	A little (2)	Quite a bit (3)	A lot (4)
Reading	1	2	3	4
Seeing in the distance	1	2	3	4
Recognising faces across the street	1	2	3	4
Watching TV	1	2	3	4
Seeing in bright light/glare	1	2	3	4
Seeing in poor or dim light	1	2	3	4
Appreciating colours	1	2	3	4
Driving a car, by day	1	2	3	4
Driving a car, by night	1	2	3	4
Walking inside	1	2	3	4
Walking outside	1	2	3	4
Using steps	1	2	3	4
Crossing the road	1	2	3	4
Using public transport	1	2	3	4
Travelling independently	1	2	3	4
Moving in unfamiliar surroundings	1	2	3	4
Employment/housework activities	1	2	3	4
Hobbies/leisure activities	1	2	3	4

Source:
An instrument for assessment of subjective visual disability in cataract patients. K Pesudovs, DJ Coster Brit. J. Ophthalmol 1998, 82:617-624.