The Development of the Screening of Visual Complaints Questionnaire for Patients with Neurodegenerative Disorders: Evaluation of Psychometric Properties

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**Background**

Approximately 75\% of patients with Parkinson’s disease (PD), 33\% of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) and 50\% of early dementia patients tend to suffer from visual problems\textsuperscript{1-3}. Nevertheless, visual complaints are little recognized in clinical care and there is a lack of clinical instruments that can be used to assess visual complaints. A 21-item Screening of Visual Complaints (SVC) questionnaire was developed to assess visual complaints in patients with PD, MS or early dementia.

**Methods**

1,461 healthy Dutch participants (18-95 years) were assessed with:

- Screening of Visual Complaints questionnaire (SVC)
- Cerebral Visual Disorders questionnaire (CVS)
- National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire\textsuperscript{–25} (VFQ-25)
- Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function\textsuperscript{A} (BRIEF-A)
- Depression Anxiety Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21)
- Questionnaire for Experiences of Attention Deficits (FEDA)
- Structured Inventory for Malingered Symptomatology (SIMS)

**Results**

- Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses resulted in a three-factor structure (Figure 1):
  - Altered visual perception (R\textsuperscript{2}=28.6\%)
  - Reduced visual perception (R\textsuperscript{2}=7.7\%)
  - Ocular discomfort (R\textsuperscript{2}=6.8\%)
- Sufficient convergent and divergent validity (Figure 2)
- High internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha= 0.85) and test-retest reliability (ICC=0.82)

**Conclusion**

The SVC is a valid and reliable tool for the assessment of subjective visual complaints in a community-sample and appears promising for use in clinical practice of patients with PD, MS or early dementia.

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