

# For visually impaired, early offer of low vision rehab may be best

January 5 2015

---



(HealthDay)—Several factors, including duration of symptoms, influence the decision to seek low vision rehabilitation services, according to a study published in the January issue of *Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics*.

Sarah A. Fraser, Ph.D., from McGill University in Montreal, and colleagues examined critical factors indicative of an individual's choice to access low vision rehabilitation services. A structured interview and questionnaires were administered to 749 visually impaired individuals. Seventy-five factors were assessed to determine awareness group: positive personal choice, negative personal choice, and lack of information.

The researchers found that making a positive personal choice to seek rehabilitation was indicated by having a response of moderate to no difficulty on item 6 (reading signs) of the Visual Function Index 14 (VF-14); having a great deal of difficulty on this item correlated with lack of information on low vision rehabilitation. Those who were more likely to have made a positive [personal choice](#) had symptom [duration](#) of under nine years, moderate difficulty or less on item 5 (seeing steps or curbs) of the VF-14, and little difficulty or less on item 3 (reading large print) of the VF-14. Males and those with greater difficulty on items 3 and 5 of the VF-14 were more likely to be in the lack of information group.

"The duration-of-[symptoms](#) factor suggests that, even in the positive choice group, it may be best to offer [rehabilitation services](#) early," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2015 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: For visually impaired, early offer of low vision rehab may be best (2015, January 5) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-01-visually-impaired-early-vision-rehab.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--