

SmartSight™ Overview

The SmartSight™ model of vision rehabilitation provides useful information about vision rehabilitation for patients as well as an outline for the care process for the ophthalmologist who is providing rehabilitative care.

Materials for Patients

The SmartSight Patient Handout is for the ophthalmologist to give to patients. It offers essential tips for making the most of a patient's remaining vision and provides information about how patients can access vision rehabilitation options in their community.

Materials for Ophthalmologists

SmartSight also outlines for ophthalmologists the model of how vision rehabilitation can be incorporated in the continuum of ophthalmic care.

- ◆ **Level 1** of vision rehabilitation calls on all ophthalmologists to recognize that vision loss due to the following visual problems impacts their patients' ability to function:
 - Acuity less than 20/40
 - Scotoma
 - Visual field loss
 - Loss of contrast sensitivity

Level 1 of this model also calls on all ophthalmologists to respond by offering patients a copy of the SmartSight™ Patient Handout and to encourage them to read it and act on it. The handout directs patients to services in their community. Many academic ophthalmic departments in the United States have comprehensive vision rehabilitation services where patients can be referred directly.

- ◆ **Level 2** of the model includes the multidisciplinary vision rehabilitation services that are important to follow when vision loss impacts more than reading fine print. (These are outlined in the Academy's Vision Rehabilitation Preferred Practice Pattern® Guidelines, available at www.aao.org/ppp). Comprehensive vision rehabilitation may be a limited clinical encounter when patient goals are limited or it may be a more extensive intervention involving many professionals. Visual acuity alone does not determine the need for service; rather, the impact of vision loss on the patient determines the intervention that is needed. Patients with early vision loss may benefit not only from using available strategies and devices but also from the opportunity to discuss the impact of their vision on their life and to receive patient education that supports them as well as training that can allow them to continue to participate in activities despite ocular disease.

Please contact the Academy at smartsight@aa.org with any questions about vision rehabilitation or SmartSight.

SmartSight™ is a program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology
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