

**Patient Reported Outcome Measuring Tools in Cataract Surgery –
Clinical Comparison in a Tertiary Hospital.**

Short title

Comparison of Patient Reported Outcome Measuring Tools in Cataract
Surgery.

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1 **Abstract**

2 **Purpose**

3 To assess the performance of Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM)
4 questionnaires ~~to~~and determine their appropriateness for routine use in
5 cataract patients.

6 **Setting**

7 Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, United Kingdom.

8 **Design**

9 Prospective cohort study.

10 **Method**

11 Patients undergoing cataract surgery between February and March 2013
12 were recruited. Four questionnaires, including Catquest-9SF, EQ-5D and its
13 visual analog scale (VAS), NEI-SES and VF-8R were given to patients to
14 complete before surgery, 3 weeks post-surgery and 3 months post-surgery.
15 Rasch-analyzed data, when possible, was used to compare questionnaires'
16 performances. Statistical significance was calculated with paired student's t-
17 test. Pearson's correlation coefficients were determined between PROMs'
18 scores and visual acuity.

19

20

44 **Introduction**

45 Cataract surgery is the commonest procedure performed in the public
46 healthcare system, the National Health Service (NHS), in the United Kingdom,
47 with around 330 000 cases performed in England.¹ Although there is clear
48 evidence of objective visual improvements from modern cataract surgery,²
49 based on visual acuity measurement, this fails to accurately evaluate patient
50 perceived benefits of the procedure.³

51 Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) examining health related
52 quality of life, functional status and symptom scores have increasingly been
53 recognized as important tools in patient centered care and in measuring the
54 value of health interventions.^A Generic PROM, measured by EQ-5D, has been
55 a mandatory requirement for four types of high volume elective surgeries
56 performed in NHS England, namely hip and knee replacements, groin hernia
57 repair, and varicose vein surgery since 2009. ~~However, d~~Despite the volume
58 of cases, cataract surgery is currently not included due to uncertainties of
59 validity and responsiveness of EQ-5D in these patients.⁴

60 The 51-item National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI-VFQ) ←
61 is considered the 'gold-standard' for assessing visual function.⁵ A shortened
62 version of NEI-VFQ with 25 items (NEI-VFQ-25) has also been introduced in
63 the assessment of vision-related quality of life of patients with ocular diseases
64 in cross-sectional studies.⁶⁻¹⁰ ~~This~~ Both versions have been used mainly in the
65 ~~has remained largely a research setting tool, as they are~~ ~~However, it is~~
66 lengthy and time-consuming ~~both~~ for patients to complete and for clinicians to
67 analyze. making them difficult to implement therefore not practical in in-routine

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68 ~~clinical practice settings, and therefore has remained largely a research tool.~~

69 NEI-VFQ was also found to contain several design issues that reduces its
70 validity, namely multidimensionality (more than 1 construct in 1 score),

71 questions that did not fit the construct, suboptimum targeting of item difficulty
72 to person ability, and dysfunctional subscales.¹¹

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73 ~~A shortened version of NEI-VFQ with 25 items (NEI-VFQ-25) has been used~~
74 ~~more widely in the assessment of vision-related quality of life of patients with~~
75 ~~ocular diseases in cross-sectional studies.⁶⁻⁸ More recently, shorter validated~~

76 questionnaires for cataract patients have been developed. These include VF-
77 8R and Catquest-9SF,^{129,103} the latter of which has been successfully adopted
78 in Sweden since 1998 as part of the Swedish National Cataract Register and
79 is promoted by the International Consortium for Health Outcomes

80 Measurement for international use.^{14,14} ~~In the UK, However, so far~~ there is no
81 consensus in the UK on a PROM for cataract surgery patients so far.

82 The aim of this study is to evaluate the feasibility of using PROMs in routine
83 NHS service for cataract patients in the United Kingdom, and to compare the
84 responsiveness of different tools in order to identify the best PROM for this
85 purpose. To our knowledge, this is the first clinical study comparing PROMs
86 for cataract patients in the United Kingdom.

87

88 **Method**

89 *Study cohort*

90 This was a [prospective](#) longitudinal study of consecutive patients scheduled
91 for cataract surgery at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London between February
92 and March 2013. Patients were recruited during their pre-operative
93 assessment. Eligible patients had cataracts in one or both eyes, were ≥ 40
94 years of age, were scheduled to have phacoemulsification and intraocular
95 lens implant insertion, were able to read and interpret English without
96 translation, and could give valid consent. We excluded patients with
97 significant [visual impairment from](#) ocular comorbidities in the eye that was to
98 be operated upon (e.g., advanced age related macular degeneration,
99 advanced glaucoma, uncontrolled diabetic retinopathy and maculopathy, and
100 other conditions that carried a guarded visual prognosis after cataract
101 surgery), and patients with psychiatric or cognitive diseases. [Those with](#)
102 [stable ocular comorbidities not causing significant visual impairment were](#)
103 [included in this study \(Table 1\).](#)

104 The study complied with the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved as a
105 part of service evaluation. Informed consent was obtained from all participants
106 in this study.

107 *Data collection*

108 A study pack with four questionnaires, consisted of Catquest-9SF, EQ-5D,
109 NEI-SES and VF-8R was given to patients to complete. Clarifications and
110 support were given by nursing staff if patients were unable to understand the
111 questionnaire. In accordance with the design of all the questionnaires used,
112 patients were instructed to consider their situation during the 2 weeks prior to
113 the assessment only. Data from one operated eye was recorded. In second
114 eye patients, no questionnaires were given within 2 weeks of completion of
115 the first eye surgery.

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116 The same pack was subsequently mailed to the patients at 3 weeks and at 3
117 months post-surgery. Questionnaire response rates were enhanced by
118 telephone call reminders at 3 weeks and 3 months post-surgery.

119 Clinical data for the subjects was retrieved from medical records. Data
120 collected included past medical history, pre- and post-operative corrected
121 distance visual acuity (CDVA) and refraction, slit-lamp biomicroscopy findings,
122 operation report, and any intra- and post-operative complications.

123

124 *Patient-reported outcome measuring tool selection*

125 Four preference-based patient-reported outcome instruments were selected
126 for this study. The 4 questionnaires were selected in order to cover 3 different
127 areas: generic health status, disease-specific health status, and
128 socioemotional status.

129 EQ-5D was used as the tool for generic health status measurement. National
130 Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the UK Department of Health have
131 recommended the use of this questionnaire as part of a wider comparative
132 health-care economic analysis in other common procedures in England. It
133 consists of 5 questions concerning subject's self-reported health, and a visual
134 analogue scale (EQ-VAS) that allow subjects to report their perceived overall
135 status of general health. EQ-5D has not been recommended specifically for
136 cataract patients,^B but some recent studies have shown that it is responsive in
137 patients with visual impairments, although none of them were based in
138 primarily English-speaking patient population. [42-4515-18](#)

139 For disease-specific measuring tool, Catquest-9SF and VF-8R were selected.
140 Both questionnaires were specifically designed to capture visual function data
141 in cataract patients, and have previously been vigorously validated in English-
142 speaking populations. [9,1012,13](#) Furthermore, a head-to-head study has shown
143 ~~that~~ Catquest-9SF to be superior to other questionnaires in cataract
144 patients. [46-19](#) We decided to include VF-8R because its predecessor (VF-14)
145 was recommended for UK cataract patients.^B However, we did not use VF-14
146 as it has not been Rasch-validated and is less responsive in detecting
147 longitudinal changes in visual function. [47-20](#)

148 NEI-SES was chosen to assess the socioemotional changes brought about by
149 cataract surgeries. This questionnaire was based on the 39-item National Eye
150 Institute Visual Function Questionnaire (NEI-VFQ). After validation and the
151 removal of redundancies by Pesudovs et al., NEI-SES was developed to
152 capture data measuring socioemotional construct. [48-11](#)

153

154 *Statistical analysis*

155 Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics were analysed by descriptive
156 statistics. Subgroup analyses on patients undergoing cataract surgery for the
157 first time and for the second time were also performed.

158 To assist data analysis, EQ-5D health states were converted to index values
159 as reported previously.^{49,2021,22} Raw value of EQ-VAS was used, as no index
160 score conversion was available. For Catquest-9SF, VF-8R and NEI-SES,
161 Rasch adjusted scoring systems were preferred over summative (Likert)
162 scoring system. The advantages of using Rasch scoring include validated
163 scoring weighting, better precision in detecting change over time,^{47,20} and the
164 possibility of using parametric statistical techniques, allowing direct
165 comparison of the performances of the questionnaires. Rasch measuring
166 scale is linear and uses a unit known as logit, or log-odds unit, which is the
167 logarithm of odds ratio of the probability a person will endorse a particular
168 rating scale step over 1- the same probability, with persons of higher ability
169 achieving a negative score.^{48,11} In other words, negative logit scores
170 represent better health states. The conversion was based on previously
171 published articles for each questionnaire.^{9,10,18,11-13}

172 Visual acuity was assessed by Snellen-converted ETDRS. Corrected distance
173 visual acuity data were analyzed with ipsilateral eye undergoing surgery
174 (CDVA), better-seeing eye (BEVA), worse-seeing eye (WEVA) and weighted
175 average of both eyes (WVA) as separate variables of interest. The WVA was

176 based on 75% contribution by BEVA and 25% contribution by WEVA.²⁴²³
177 Data analysis was performed with Microsoft Excel for Mac 2011 (Microsoft
178 Corp, 2010). Association between continuous variables were examined using
179 the Pearson's correlation coefficient. Coefficients were considered strong
180 (>0.5), moderate (>0.35 – 0.50), weak (>0.20 – 0.35), and no correlation
181 (≤ 0.2). Statistical significance ($P < 0.05$) was assessed using two-tailed paired
182 student's t-test after non-respondents were excluded from longitudinal data
183 analysis.

184 **Results**

185 One hundred and twenty-two~~three~~ patients were recruited for the study. Sixty-
186 ~~five~~four patients (52~~3~~%) were male. Mean age of all subjects (\pm S.D.) was
187 70.72 \pm 10.60 years. Sixty-eight~~nine~~ patients (55.76~~4~~%) had surgery on their
188 right eye; while 67 patients (54.5~~*~~%) were undergoing cataract surgery for the
189 first time. ~~Forty-nine~~Fifty-nine patients (48.40~~0~~%) were White British and
190 ~~Forty-one~~30 (33.62~~4~~%) were Indian. Mean pre-operative CDVA, BEVA,
191 WEVA and WVA were 0.634 \pm 0.489, 0.267 \pm 0.2730, 0.654 \pm 0.504 and
192 0.367 \pm 0.2730 LogMAR, respectively. Post-operative mean CDVA, BEVA,
193 WEVA and WVA were 0.204 \pm 0.2630, 0.146 \pm 0.205, 0.357 \pm 0.358 and
194 0.204 \pm 0.216 LogMAR, respectively. Peri-operative complications include 1
195 case of contained anterior radial capsular tear as well as 1 case of cystoid
196 macular oedema, 1 case of raised intraocular pressure and 1 case of post-
197 operative uveitis, all of which settled after a short course of medical treatment.
198 Table 1 summarises the sociodemographic and clinical data.

199 Of the 122~~3~~ patient recruited, 824 (67.25~~9~~%) patients responded at 3 weeks
200 after surgery, while 76 (61.8%) patients responded at 3 months after surgery.
201 Non-respondents at each point of follow-up were excluded from further
202 statistical analyses. Table 2 showed the median age, gender and ethnicity
203 distribution between respondents and non-respondents at 3 weeks and at 3
204 months. Age and gender distributions were similar between the two groups at
205 both time points, although the ethnic groups were slightly different between
206 respondents and non-respondents at both time points.

207 Patient responses at pre-operative assessment, ~~at~~ 3 weeks post-surgery and
208 ~~at~~ 3 months post-surgery are summarized in Table 3. All questionnaires
209 reported improvement in patient reported outcomes in relation to post-
210 operative CDVA improvement. Catquest-9SF reported the largest and
211 statistically significant changes at both 3 weeks and 3 months post-surgery
212 (120.86~~10.8~~%, P~~p~~ \leq 0.0001 and 162.42~~57.3~~%, p~~P~~ \leq 0.0001, respectively). VF-
213 8R was also statistically significant at both time points (61.76%, p<0.0001 and
214 87.55, p<0.0001 respectively). ~~Both VF-8R and~~ NEI-SES reported statistically
215 significant changes at 3 months post-surgery (~~86.3~~54.63%, p~~P~~ \leq 0.0001~~0005~~
216 ~~and 49.1%, P=0.0006 respectively~~). Neither EQ-5D health states nor the EQ
217 VAS showed change that achieved statistical significance at any time points.

218 Figure 1 illustrates the responses from patients at both 3 weeks and at 3
219 months post-surgery. Catquest-9SF and VF-8R showed changes that were
220 statistically significant results at all time points. NEI-SES did not show
221 statistically significant change in either of the patients subgroups until 3
222 months post-operatively. Neither EQ-5D nor EQ VAS showed change that
223 was statistically significant results at any time point.

224 We further investigated the patients who responded to PROMs at both 3-week
225 and 3-month post-operatively. (Table 4) Sixty-four patients responded at both
226 time points. The changes in response to the different questionnaires were
227 similar to those observed when all patients were considered. Significant
228 improvements versus pre-operative responses were recorded by Catquest-
229 9SF and VF-8R at 3-weeks post-operatively. These two questionnaires and
230 NEI-SES also registered significant improvements from pre-operative

231 responses at 3-months post-operatively. However, unlike Catquest-9SF and
232 NEI-SES whose scores significantly improved between the two follow-ups,
233 VF-8R did not register further significant improvement during this period. EQ-
234 5D and EQ-VAS did not yield noticeable changes at either time points.

235

236 Subgroup analyses into the effect of first and second eye cataract surgery
237 were performed and shown in Table 54. Catquest-9SF ~~and VF-8R both was~~
238 ~~the only measuring tool that~~ demonstrated statistically significant changes in
239 both groups of patients at 3 weeks; ~~whereas VF-8R demonstrated statistically~~
240 ~~significant change only in second eye patients at 3 weeks.~~ Subgroup analysis
241 of NEI-SES and EQ-5D performance in both sets of patients were similar to
242 the overall results shown in Figure 1.

243 Although considerable changes were recorded by VF-8R, these changes did
244 not achieve statistical significance. EQ-5D and EQ-VAS did not yield
245 noticeable changes.

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246 Table 65 illustrates the Pearson's correlation coefficients between visual
247 function and clinical variables. Pre-operatively, only Catquest-9SF showed
248 weak correlation to one of the four visual function variables (WEVA, $r=0.22$,
249 $P<0.05$). All other PROM tools did not show any correlation to visual function.
250 At 3-weeks post-surgery, Catquest-9SF, VF-8R, NEI-SES and EQ-5D were
251 found to be weakly correlated to CDVA, BEVA and WEVA. In addition, NEI-
252 SES and EQ-5D were also weakly correlated to WVA. At 3-months post-
253 surgery, CDVA, BEVA and WVA were weakly correlated with VF-8R and NEI-

254 SES, while WEVA was correlated to Catquest-9SF, VF-8R, NEI-SES and EQ-
255 VAS.

256 ~~We found no association between Catquest-9SF and either pre-operative~~
257 ~~CDVA or BEVA, and weak correlation to WEVA and WVA (Pearson's~~
258 ~~correlation coefficients 0.18, 0.14, 0.25 and 0.22, respectively). Similarly, we~~
259 ~~found no association between NEI-SES and pre-operative CDVA and BEVA,~~
260 ~~but weak correlation to WEVA and WVA (Pearson's correlation coefficients~~
261 ~~0.11, 0.12, 0.17 and 0.14, respectively). VF-8R, EQ-5D and EQ-VAS did not~~
262 ~~appear associated with pre-operative visual function.~~

263 ~~Post-operatively, Catquest-9SF was weakly correlated to all four parameters~~
264 ~~of visual function at 3 weeks (Pearson's correlation coefficients 0.28, 0.32,~~
265 ~~0.37 and 0.32 for CDVA, BEVA, WEVA and WVA, respectively). However, it~~
266 ~~only remained correlated to WEVA at 3 months. VF-8R was only correlated to~~
267 ~~WEVA at 3 weeks, but showed weak correlations with WEVA as well as~~
268 ~~BEVA and WVA at 3 months. NEI-SES has a similar pattern of correlation to~~
269 ~~visual function, showing weak correlations at 3 weeks to BEVA, WEVA and~~
270 ~~WVA and correlation to WEVA only at 3 months post-surgery. In contrast, EQ-~~
271 ~~5D only showed weak correlation to WEVA at 3 weeks and no correlation to~~
272 ~~other parameters at any other time points. We found no evidence of~~
273 ~~association between EQ-VAS and any visual function parameters at any time~~
274 ~~point.~~

275

276 **Discussion**

277 Routine use of patient reported outcome measures could help patients and
278 clinicians make better decisions, facilitate comparisons and stimulate
279 improvements in the provision of healthcare.²²⁻²⁴ To our knowledge, this is the
280 first clinical study evaluating different PROM tools in the same cohort of
281 patients as part of routine cataract surgery in the UK NHS. This study showed
282 that cataract surgery has a positive impact on visual function and is best
283 measured by Catquest-9SF as early as 3 weeks after surgery. We also
284 showed possible delayed improvements in the socioemotional construct in
285 patients undergoing cataract surgery, and poor correlations between PROMs
286 results (i.e. visual function) and clinical parameters (i.e. visual acuity) in
287 cataract patients.

288 Cataract surgery positively impacts visual function and therefore quality of life
289 as determined by all the instruments in this UK population, ~~and similar to~~
290 ~~findings from previous studies~~ have been reported by Desai and colleagues,²⁵
291 ~~(ref)~~. Both Catquest-9SF and VF-8R were highly sensitive to this change, with
292 the logit scores improved significantly by 16257% and 868% at 3 months,
293 respectively. It has been shown previously that Catquest-9SF was the most
294 responsive questionnaire of 16 instruments in a head-to-head study, including
295 VF-8R in a Swedish patient cohort,⁽¹⁶⁾⁹ but the authors advised caution in the
296 extrapolation of its superiority over other questionnaires to other populations.
297 ~~Nevertheless, o~~Our study lends support to the idea that Catquest-9SF is a
298 highly responsive tool and may be the most appropriate questionnaire of

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299 choice for the measurement of patient reported outcomes in cataract surgery
300 in UK.

301 Previous PROM studies have reported outcomes between 3 to 6 months after
302 cataract surgery.^{9-12,13} We purposefully chose a much earlier timeframe of 3
303 weeks after surgery as the first point of data collection, in order to assess the
304 feasibility of using PROMs as part of patients' routine post-operative care,
305 since UK patients most commonly return for their final post-operative review
306 at 2-6 weeks either in the hospital or at their community optometrist.^C By
307 integrating PROMs with routine post-operative review, patient-reported
308 outcomes could be collected without further patient visits or the difficulties of
309 obtaining post-discharge questionnaire return, thereby improving patient
310 participation rates while minimizing administrative and resource costs.

311 At 3 weeks post-surgery, Catquest-9SF detected statistically significant
312 improvements in visual function in patients who underwent their first cataract
313 surgery as well as those for the second time. ~~In contrast, at 3 weeks post-~~
314 ~~surgery status,~~ VF-8R similarly produced statistically significant responses- in
315 both groups of patients but to a much smaller effect, especially in first eye
316 patients at 3 weeks only in patients who underwent second eye cataract
317 surgery. Furthermore, we showed (Table 4) that although VF-8R responded to
318 early improvements in patient reported visual function, it was less sensitive in
319 capturing changes between early and later follow-up, suggesting a plateau
320 effect of its responsiveness. These findings suggest that Catquest-9SF
321 performance is superior to that of VF-8R, as previously shown in a head-to-
322 head comparison study.¹⁸ Our results also showed that, while improvements

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§23 in PROM could be recorded as early as 3-week post-surgery, further
§24 significant improvement could be recorded up until 3-month post-surgery.
§25 Further longer-term longitudinal study with Catquest-9SF may help
§26 demonstrate the sustainability of the PROM changes after cataract surgery. A
§27 previous study suggested that visual function improvement in patients
§28 receiving unilateral cataract surgery was dependent on whether the fellow eye
§29 has significant visual impairment (defined as CDVA \leq 0.20).²³ However, this is
§30 an unlikely explanation for our failure to detect an effect with VF-8R, since the
§31 majority of our first eye patients had CDVA $<$ 0.20 in the fellow eye (42 of 63,
§32 66.7%). Visual function improvements in the first eye subgroup were
§33 statistically significant when measured by VF-8R at 3 months status-post. We
§34 therefore interpret our findings as providing evidence that Catquest-9SF
§35 captures changes of visual function at an earlier time after cataract surgery
§36 than VF-8R.

§37
§38 A study by Shekhawat and colleagues has shown that cataract surgeries
§39 could improve patients' socioemotional status.^D Changes in socioemotional
§40 status have also been reported in cross-sectional studies involving patients
§41 undergoing other procedures, such as corneal transplants.²⁴ However, to the
§42 best of our knowledge, longitudinal socioemotional changes have not been
§43 previously reported in cataract patients. In our study, cChanges in NEI-SES
§44 were delayed and only became ~~were~~ statistically significant at 3 months after
§45 cataract surgery in our study, but not earlier. These results suggest that
§46 improvement in socioemotional status occurred after improvement of visual
§47 function, and this phenomenon may not be fully assessable until at least 3

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348 ~~months post-operatively.~~ Socio-emotional changes brought about by medical
349 interventions are currently poorly understood. ~~;~~ We speculate that
350 neuroplasticity could account for the delayed changes in socioemotional
351 status. Neuroplasticity is the ability of the brain to reorganise its structure and
352 function in response to changes in the environment, and there is now a
353 growing body of evidence that neuroplasticity occurs in adult patients with
354 amblyopia and those after refractive surgery.²⁶ Patients with multifocal lens
355 also seem to display neuroplasticity or “neuroadaptation” after surgery to
356 counteract the associated side effects, such as glare, halos and loss of
357 contrast sensitivity, and this process can take several months. While studies
358 of neuroplasticity in ophthalmology have focused on the visual cortex, we
359 hypothesise that changes in other areas of the brain, including ones
360 controlling social interactions and emotional status, also occur after cataract
361 surgery. Since changes in socioemotional construct appeared to take longer
362 than visual function to materialise, future research in this area should take into
363 account the timing of data collection.

364 In our study, EQ-5D and EQ-VAS ~~did not respond~~ were poorly responsive well
365 to cataract surgery. There have been conflicting reports of validity and
366 sensitivity of EQ-5D in patients with visual or ophthalmic related conditions.⁴
367 ~~Although There are~~ some studies ~~have~~ showing a good performances of EQ-
368 5D in cataract patients, many of ~~these which reports consist involve of~~ patient
369 cohorts with very different ethnic compositions ~~compared with to our this~~
370 study.^{12-15,18} Our current results do not support the use of EQ-5D in routine
371 assessment of patient reported visual function improvement after cataract
372 surgery.

373 All the questionnaires, at best, showed weak correlation with visual acuity
374 status. ~~Only WEVA was consistently weakly associated with Catquest-9SF~~
375 ~~and NEI-SES at all time points.~~ Similar ~~findings~~ ~~findings~~ have been ~~reported~~
376 ~~noted~~ in patients ~~who underwent cataract surgery~~²⁷ and in those with age-
377 related macular degeneration.²⁵⁻²⁸ Our study ~~therefore adds weight to their~~
378 ~~findings and~~ suggests that the severity of visual acuity impairment measured
379 in clinical settings may not fully reflect patient's visual function or their
380 perception of the severity of their health problems. ~~We believe, and supports~~
381 ~~the view~~ that pre-operative assessment of patient-reported visual function and
382 severity of deterioration could be an important tool to help assist decision-
383 making by both patients and clinicians.

384 Limitations in this study are that it has a near 30% non-respondent rate,
385 despite multiple telephone reminders during the study period, and raises
386 concerns on the feasibility of routine use of PROMs. Non-respondent rates of
387 around 50% are commonly reported in studies based on mail surveys.²⁶⁻²⁹
388 The use of PROMs at routine post-operative visits for cataract patients would
389 help resolve this issue. Although age and gender distribution was similar
390 between respondents and non-respondents, there were differences in the
391 ethnic distributions. Further work is needed to investigate any potential
392 differences in the responses by different ethnic groups in the questionnaires
393 we used. Furthermore, this study was based in a tertiary centre in a
394 metropolitan area; therefore the findings may not generalize across the UK.
395 We did not include other generic health status measuring tools due to
396 concerns of inducing interviewee fatigue, although further studies with

397 different generic PROMs, such as the Health-utilities index 3 (HUI-3) may
398 yield results that are more suitable for cost-utility analyses.

399 In conclusion, this study demonstrated the feasibility of collecting patient-
400 reported outcomes in cataract surgery in routine clinical practice.

401 Improvements in patient-reported visual function could be detected as early
402 as 3 weeks post-operatively, with Catquest-9SF being the most responsive
403 measuring tool ~~both in first-eye and second-eye patients~~. Results from NEI-
404 SES suggest that cataract surgery could exert a delayed effect on patient's
405 socioemotional construct and further research in this area should be mindful
406 of the possible bias induced by timing of data collection. Generic PROMs
407 produce insufficient response to cataract surgery and should not be used in
408 these patients. Visual acuity measurements correlates poorly with patient-
409 reported visual function, and the incorporation of PROMs into routine practice
410 could assist clinical decision-making and in assessing the value of ophthalmic
411 interventions.

412 **What was known**

- 413 - Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are important in
- 414 assessing outcomes in patients undergoing medical interventions.
- 415 - Previous reports have demonstrated the robustness of various PROMs
- 416 in cataract surgery.

417 **What this paper adds**

- 418 - Catquest-9SF was shown to be the most responsive PROM tool in a
- 419 British cohort at an earlier follow-up time than previously reported.
- 420 - Delayed response in NEI-SES suggests a possible late effect of
- 421 cataract surgery in socio-emotional construct.

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554 **Figure legends**

555 Figure 1. Box-plots of patient responses to (a) Catquest-9SF, VF-8R and NEI-
556 SES, and; (b) EQ-5D and EQ-VAS pre-operatively, at 3 week post-surgery
557 and at 3 months post-surgery. For easier comparison, logit scores were
558 inverted to show improvement in health states captured by Catquest-9SF, VF-
559 8R and NEI-SES. For EQ-5D, index scores were used. For EQ-VAS,
560 percentages (in decimal) were used. Pre-operative – white; 3 weeks post-
561 surgery: dotted; 3 months post-surgery: diagonals.

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