

assessing the association between measures of quality of life and visual impairment. Impairment was derived from information on newly reported eye disorders (available between waves 2 to 6) and from self-rated quality of eyesight (waves 1 to 6). Quality of life was measured by CASP-19 and life satisfaction score (LSS) (both available between waves 2 and 6).

Results

Within six waves of the study, poor eyesight or blindness was at least once self-reported by 8.8% and any eye disorder was reported at least once by 46% of the sample. Quality of life through the study decreased more rapidly among those with visual impairment. Negative and significant association between reporting visual impairment at least once between waves 1 and 6 and level of CASP-19 and life satisfaction scores in wave 6 was found for both measurements and it remained significant in fully adjusted analyses for CASP-19 (every extra visual impairment reported between waves 1 and 6 decreased CASP-19 score in wave 6 by 0.3 point) while it was fully explained for LSS. Loneliness was one of the most important covariates mediating the role of visual impairment on quality of life.

Conclusions

Results suggest that visual impairment influences quality of life of older adults represented by CASP-19 and LSS, and that the loneliness significantly influences the association between visual impairment and quality of life.

Key messages:

- Visual impairment is significantly associated with quality of life
- Loneliness influences the association between visual impairment and quality of life

Does loneliness influence the association between visual impairment and quality of life?

Jitka Pikhartova

J Pikhartova, C Victor

Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University London, London, UK

Contact: jitka.pikhartova@brunel.ac.uk

Background

Interest in quality of life increased in recent years in line with ageing of population worldwide. Both loneliness and reduced possibility of participating in daily activities due to visual impairment alter personal well-being and quality of life. Aim of this study was to investigate the role of loneliness in the association between visual impairment reported throughout the study and quality of life in the last wave of English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

Methods

Data from 4,765 of men and women who took part in every wave of the ELSA were used in multivariable regression analysis