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Social participation of persons with visual impairments from adolescence to young adulthood: Results from an accelerated longitudinal research from 1996 through 2016

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Social participation is challenging for people with visual impairments (VI). However, it's important to realize that social participation is an interplay between person and environment; between possibilities and obstacles. In order to improve social participation of persons with VI, it's necessary to chart the current state of their social participation. Data of an accelerated longitudinal national research project in Netherlands of adolescents and young adults with VI were analyzed to: Give a description of the extent of participation in leisure activities, social relations and education/ employment; the interrelationship between the participation areas and psychosocial functioning; and to trace successful and non-successful pathways toward social participation. Adolescents and young adults with VI were interviewed in three waves, using a computer assisted telephone interview (CATI): 1996 (Cohort 1: N=316), 2005 (Cohort 1: N=205, Cohort 2: N=154) and 2010 (Cohort 1: N=179, Cohort 2: N=112). Participation in leisure activities was measured using open-ended questions and degree of peer activity; in relationships using questionnaires and open-ended questions about social networks, social support, social competences, dating experiences, marital status and starting a family; in education/work using open-ended questions about degree and kind of education, paid and voluntary jobs. Furthermore, psychosocial functioning was measured using questionnaires on self-esteem, perceived stigmatization, wellbeing, loneliness and acceptance of impairment. Data were analyzed using correlational analyses and regression models. Results so far showed that most young people with VI in this study find their way in education and work. On the area of leisure activities and relationships there are problems concerning dating, network size, sexual experiences, mobility and amount of peer-activities. These problems are negatively related to psychosocial characteristics like self-esteem, acceptance of impairment and loneliness. Social participation seems to be an interplay between personal and environmental characteristics and needs to be learned by trial and error.

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Prevalence of striae in cornea of patients who are users of lotrafilcon B contact lenses: A cross-sectional descriptive study for 6 months

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Background & Aim: Subsequent striations are related in most cases to corneal edema in users of contact lens (LC). The aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of subsequent striae cornea in patients who are users of contact lenses lotrafilcon B.

Materials & Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study with 20 female and male aged between 18 and 50 years, contact lens wearers for a minimum usage time of 6 months was studied. All the patients underwent a complete optometric examination with detailed evaluation of stroma with biomicroscope 10 to 40X magnification, to establish the presence of subsequent stretch marks (according to the criteria of N Efron) and the subjects underwent evaluation of the tear film with the Schirmer test I and BUT. With the obtained results, a descriptive statistical analysis was performed.

Results: The morbidity of corneal striae was 75% of the study population, of which 60% were female, in the age group of 15-44 years, with a Schirmer 10 to 20 mm and a BUT 10 to 14 seconds.

Conclusions: The occurrence of corneal striae is not directly related to material contact lenses because as seen in the results of the study, Schirmer's test and BUT were above normal values.