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Sloan Low Contrast Letter Acuity**

<b>Availability:</b>	Charts are available for purchase from: <a href="#">Click here for Sloan Low Contrast Letter Acuity</a>
<b>Classification:</b>	Core for FA Supplemental for MS
<b>Short Description of Instrument:</b>	<p><b>Construct measured:</b> Low contrast letter acuity</p> <p><b>Generic vs. disease specific:</b> Generic</p> <p><b>Means of administration:</b> Assessment</p> <p><b>Intended respondent:</b> Patient</p> <p><b># of items:</b> N/A</p> <p><b># of subscales and names of sub-scales:</b> N/A</p> <p><b># of items per sub-scale:</b> N/A</p>
<b>Comments/Special instructions</b>	<p><b>Scoring:</b> Charts are scored based on the number of letters identified correctly. This format provides continuous scoring and may allow Sloan charts to capture losses of contrast at small letter sizes.</p> <p><b>Background:</b> Low contrast acuity testing provides information on patient-reported aspects of vision. This testing is performed using low-contrast Sloan letter charts. Each chart corresponds to a different contrast level (shade of gray letters on white/retroilluminated background).</p>
<b>References:</b>	<p><b>Key Reference:</b> Balcer LJ, et al. Contrast letter acuity as a visual component for the Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite. <i>Neurol.</i> 2003; 61:1367-73.</p> <p><b>Other References:</b></p> <p>Balcer LJ, et al. New low-contrast vision charts: reliability and test characteristics in patients with multiple sclerosis. <i>Mult Scler</i> June 2000; 6(3):163-171.</p>
<b>Rationale/Justification:</b>	<p><b>Strengths/ Weaknesses:</b> Sloan charts have a standardized format based on Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study visual acuity charts, which are the standard used for ophthalmology clinical trials.</p> <p><b>Psychometric Properties:</b> Inter-rater agreement was described with the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC) and comparison of mean scores. Excellent inter-rater agreement (ICC=0.86-0.95) was demonstrated at each contrast level among MS patients (n=100) and visually-asymptomatic volunteers (n=33). Average letter scores at the lowest contrast level (0.6%) were highly variable in the MS group, even among patients with visual acuities of 20/20 or better, and among those who required no assistance for ambulation.</p> <p><b>Administration:</b> Patients are instructed to stand 1 m away from the Sloan letter charts and read the letters, starting with the highest contrast.</p>