

## Background

Presbyopia is the physiological age-related loss in near visual function and it is estimated to affect about 1.3 billion people worldwide in 2011. Although many options in contact lens and surgery have been proposed to restore near visual function, reading spectacles are still the most common correction for presbyopia. In order to judge the success of any correction option both objective visual function measures and patient reported outcomes should be assessed. The Near Activity Visual Questionnaire (NAVQ), is designed specifically to assess the benefits of presbyopia correction and it was introduced and standardised for English speakers by Gupta et al (2007) and it was developed further by Buckhurst et al (2012). This is a 10-item questionnaire, plus an item rating overall satisfaction with near vision. It has been used to compare outcomes after refractive surgery or multifocal contact lenses. An Italian version of NAVQ was arranged according to recommendations and guidelines for a comprehensive multistep methodological process for translating, adapting and validating psychometric instruments in health care research (Zeri et al, 2017).

## Purpose

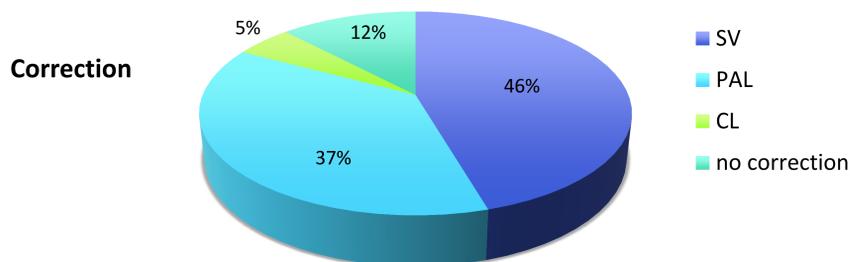
To investigate Italian eye-care practitioners' prescribing habits and patient satisfaction about presbyopia correction.

## Methods

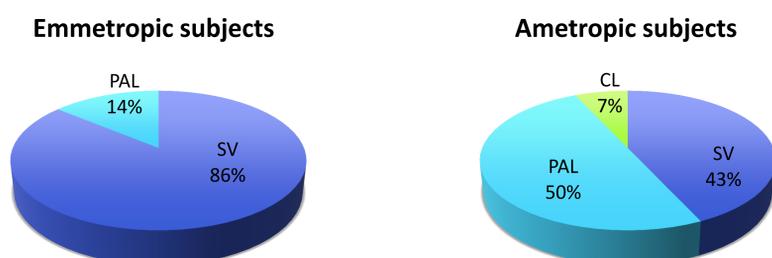
270 subjects (aged over 42) completed the NAVQ. Patients' age, gender, refraction, and type of optical correction worn, were recorded, including information on the prescriber and the time of the assessment.

## Results

251 completed surveys were collected (137 females), aged 42-81 years (mean 56).

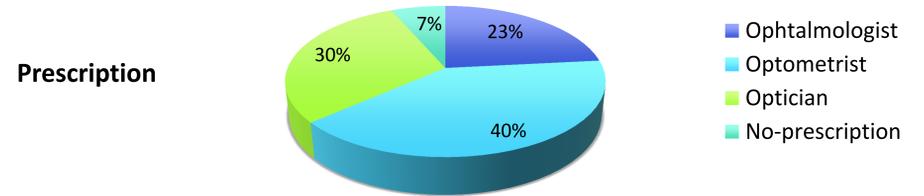


46% of the subjects wore single-vision glasses (SV), 37% progressive-addition spectacle lenses (PAL), 5% multifocal contact lenses (CL), and 12% no correction.



The majority of emmetropes (86%) wore SV, while people who needed a distance correction wore PAL (50%), SV (43%) or multifocal CL (7%).

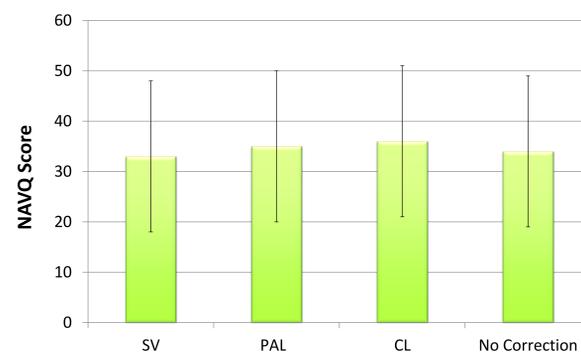
## Results



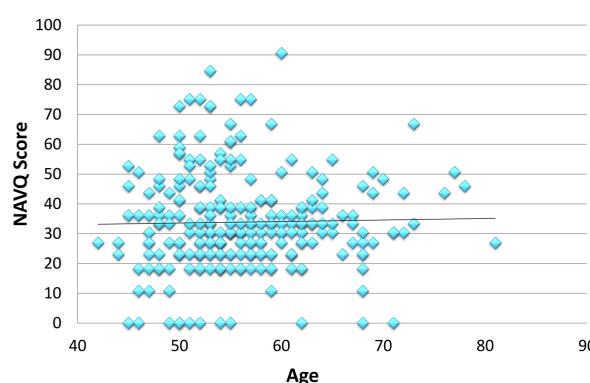
27% of subjects had their eyes tested by an optician, 42% by an optometrist, 24% by an ophthalmologist and 7% wore self prescribed reading glasses.



Ophthalmologists prescribed more SV (65%) than PAL, while optometrists and opticians prescribed more PAL (44%) than SV (33%). All the multifocal CL were prescribed by an optometrist.



35% of subjects had worn the same correction for more than two years, 32% for 1 to 2 years and 33% less than one year.



## Conclusions

If the optic correction is adequate, the deterioration of the quality of vision in presbyopia and the degree of patients' dissatisfaction do not depend on the amount of presbyopia, but on the presbyopia onset. Multifocal contact lenses are effective in making people independent in daily near activities, as much as single vision or progressive glasses. However, the use of contact lenses for presbyopia is not widely spread in Italy due to mainly not all eye-care professionals are equally likely to prescribe them.

## References

- Buckhurst, P. J., Wolffsohn, J. S., Gupta, N., Naroo, S. A., Davies, L. N., & Shah, S. (2012). Development of a questionnaire to assess the relative subjective benefits of presbyopia correction. *Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery*, 38(1), 74-79
- Zeri F, Beltramo I, Boccardo L, Palumbo P, Petitti V, Wolffsohn JS, Naroo SA. (2017) An Italian translation and validation of the Near Activity Visual Questionnaire (NAVQ). *Eur J Ophthalmol*. Apr 11:0. doi: 10.5301/ejo.5000957. [Epub ahead of print]