Poor Vision and Dizziness in the Elderly

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The papers of both Jack et al. [1] and Grimby and Rosenhall [2] discuss two conditions that are relatively common but under-recognised because they are accepted as an integral part of 'ageing' by both the patient and, to a lesser extent, by the medical profession. Prevalence of both disorders increases with age and appears to be higher in elderly females. The two conditions, poor vision and dizziness, may also predispose to falls which have significant effects on morbidity and mortality. Grimby and Rosenhall have shown that dizziness is an important negative factor in the quality of life in old people. Studies are currently being undertaken to examine the effect of poor vision on the quality of life. Both papers highlight the prevalence of

these conditions and reinforce the concept that geriatric medicine is an all-encompassing speciality and requires a holistic approach to the patient, including what may appear to be vague or insignificant complaints.

References

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