Comment on the Paper of L. Casellato: New Developments in Visual Acuity Charts

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I was interested to read Professor Casella-to's article [1] in which he describes two new visual acuity charts utilising the Jackson op-totype with line size progressions of either V2 or 4V2.

As the author points out, a variety of opto-types are available, and an evaluation of the utility of Jackson's is to be welcomed. However, the chosen progressions (scales) do not include that upon which a considerable body of research has accumulated and which is now widely adopted [2]: the logMAR (logarithm of the minimum angle of resolution) scale in which the progression is 10VIO. Indeed, Professor Casellato acknowledges that this scale is recommended by the International Council of Ophthalmology, but he instead resorts to the adoption of scales '...developed by trial and error...'. LogMAR charts have a sound theoretical basis as their progression has been shown to represent a good approximation to a scale of equal discriminability [3]. Commercially available logMAR acuity charts also possess several other advantages not routinely found, such as an equal number of letters per line

(which allows the chart to be easily scored on a letter-by-letter basis [4]) and the inclusion of chart lines which extend to an acuity limit of 6/3 (-0.3 logMAR) [2]. May I suggest that Professor Casellato considers adopting the logMAR scale for any future charts he chooses to develop or, alternatively, provides evidence of the superiority of his adopted scales over the logMAR standard?

References

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1·Citchin JE, Bailey I: Task complexity and visual acuity in senile macular degeneration. Aust J Optom 1981;64:235-242.