Comment on the Paper of L. Casellato: Reply

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Dear Sirs,

Dr. Moseley [1] commented my paper [2] and concluded suggesting that I consider adopting the logMAR scale or provide evidence of the superiority of the scale adopted by myself. May I answer.

The 'V' scale is substantially the λ/i scale, which has a long history. Important adoptions were those by Green in 1868, Sulzer in 1904, Blaskovics in 1923 and then by Lancaster: it was then suggested by the Ogle Committee (1953) and adopted again by Sloan in 1959. I tried it in 1964 and 1970. The 10 γ 10 scale was recommended by the German Society in 1967 and recalled at the European Congress of 1972. Since then, almost all charts published in the ophthalmic literature adopted this gradation, also recommended at the 1978 International Congress.

-Yet these '1.26' charts, most of which were or are available on the market, do not seem to have been widely adopted for clinical researches (certainly even less in clinical practice). In the vast majority of recent clinical papers, visual acuity is referred to in ways clearly showing the use of Snellen or Monoyer scales. One can doubt if standardization of the visual acuity measurement will eventually be attained by the 'V' scale, and this is the reason for trying a new scale. Also, the logMAR notation is certainly not appealing to practitioners.

I propose to resume the Javal regularization of the Snellen scale by the $\sqrt{2}$ progression and to modify slightly the Monoyer scale by the same and by the $4\sqrt{2}$ progression. As the $\sqrt{2}$ progression is contained exactly in the $A\sqrt{2}$ one, modified Snellen and Monoyer scales become substantially unified. In the field of standardization, the advantage, over the 'V' scale lies just in continuing the tradition of Snellen and Monoyer. The constant use of the Snellen and Monoyer scales for over a century, a use still continuing in spite of discussions and recommendations to the contrary, carries no less weight than the demonstration of the sound basis of the 3 V2 and 'V' scales. Only by enabling the users to try charts with geometrized Snellen and Monoyer scales is it possible to know if they can be adopted.

References

Moseley MJ: Comment on the paper of Prof Casellato. Ophthalmologica 1995;209:52. Casellato L: New developments in visual acuity charts. Ophthalmologica 1994;208:95-97.