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# Self-reported driving difficulty in patients with bilateral cataract

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**Purpose:** The presence of cataract causes reduction in visual acuity (VA) and contrast sensitivity (CS) and thus can affect individual's daily activities. The aim of this study was to investigate self-reported driving difficulty in patients with bilateral cataract. **Methods:** A total of 99 participants aged 50 and above, with bilateral cataract, who possessed a valid driving license and drove regularly were chosen for this cross-sectional study that looked into their visual functions (VA and CS) and driving difficulty using the self-reported Driving Difficulty Questionnaire. **Results:** The mean age of the participants was 65.04±7.22 years old. Results showed that the mean composite driving difficulty score was 83.18±11.74 and most of the participants were having difficulty for driving in the rain (73.7%) and at night (85.9%).

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Furthermore, the study found that there was a significant correlation between driving difficulty score and CS ( $r_s = 0.40$ ,  $p = 0.03$ ). However, there was no significant correlation between driving difficulty score and VA ( $r_s = -0.14$ ,  $p = 0.17$ ). A linear regression was calculated to predict driving difficulty score based on binocular CS and a significant regression equation was found ( $F(1,28) = 8.115$ ,  $p = 0.008$ ) with  $R^2$  of 0.225. Drivers with bilateral cataract will most likely experience some forms of difficulty, especially when driving under low contrast conditions. Conclusion: The findings of this study demand that a comprehensive eye examination should be made compulsory for older adult drivers when issuing or renewing their driving license for the safety of all road users. © 2021 Spanish General Council of Optometry

#### Author keywords

Cataract; Driving performance; Eye care; Visual impairment; Visual status

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