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Demonstration of Visual Acuity

Experiment 8 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To measure and record distance visual acuity using the assigned calibrated chart.

Principle

A visual-acuity chart tests recognition of standard optotypes at a defined viewing distance. In Snellen notation the numerator is the test distance and the denominator is the distance at which the recorded optotype subtends its standard angle.

Requirements

- Calibrated Snellen or approved distance chart, correctly measured viewing distance, adequate lighting.
- Clean occluder, record sheet and the volunteer's usual distance spectacles if applicable.

Procedure

1. Set the chart

Use the chart's specified distance, commonly 6 m for a metric Snellen chart. Do not use a scaled printout at an arbitrary distance.

2. Explain and position

Obtain consent, place the volunteer at the measured position and record whether correction is worn.

3. Test one eye

Cover the other eye without pressure and read from larger to smaller lines. Apply the chart's prescribed pass/error rule.

4. Test the second eye

Repeat under identical conditions, cleaning the occluder as required. Record each eye separately.

5. Document

Enter right-eye and left-eye acuity, test distance, chart and correction status. Instructor-led pinhole testing may be recorded separately if indicated.

6. Interpret

Explain the notation without turning a screening result into a diagnosis. Refer unexpected impairment to the appropriate clinician.

Observations and Record

Eye	Without / with correction	Acuity and chart rule
Right	_____	_____
Left	_____	_____

Worked Example

The numbers below are illustrative; enter your own observations in the record.

- A 6/12 result means that at 6 m the participant resolves an optotype intended to be resolved at 12 m under the chart standard. It does not mean “50% eyesight.”

Result

Record the observed outcome and calculated value, with units. State whether the stated laboratory specification was met; do not copy the worked example as your result.

Precautions

- Do not press on the covered eye or allow peeking.
- Keep lighting, distance and correction status consistent and allow an accessible alternative chart when needed.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Why record correction?

Spectacles may change measured acuity.

2. What does 6/6 signify?

Resolution of the specified standard optotype at 6 m under the testing conditions.

3. Does acuity assess every visual function?

No. It does not fully measure fields, contrast, colour vision or ocular health.

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