

Snellen Eye Chart

Overview:

The Snellen eye chart is a commonly used tool for screening visual acuity. From a distance of 20 feet, the patient reads the letters on the wall-mounted chart, using one eye at a time. If a patient can read only down through the line marked 40 feet, vision is 20/40, which indicates that from 20 feet the patient can read what someone with normal vision can read from 40 feet. If the large letters on the line marked 200 feet cannot be read using the better eye, even with glasses, the patient is considered legally blind.

Referral to an ophthalmologist should be considered when visual acuity is worse than 20/40, with glasses, if applicable, and visual impairment is interfering with daily activities.

Source:

Miller KE, Zylstra RG, Standridge JB. The geriatric patient: a systematic approach to maintaining health. *Am Fam Physician*. 2000;61(4):1089-104.

Example of Snellen Eye Chart

