

Concerns of Artificial Eye Wearers

Keith Pine BSc, MBA, MIMPT
PhD candidate, The University of Auckland
Supervisors: Dr R. Jacobs & Dr B. Sloan.

Background

The loss of an eye is a major event that impacts on a person's self image, yet there is little published research about artificial eye wearers' quality of life.

Aim

The aim of this retrospective study was to identify the main concerns of artificial eye wearers as a guide for future research.

Method

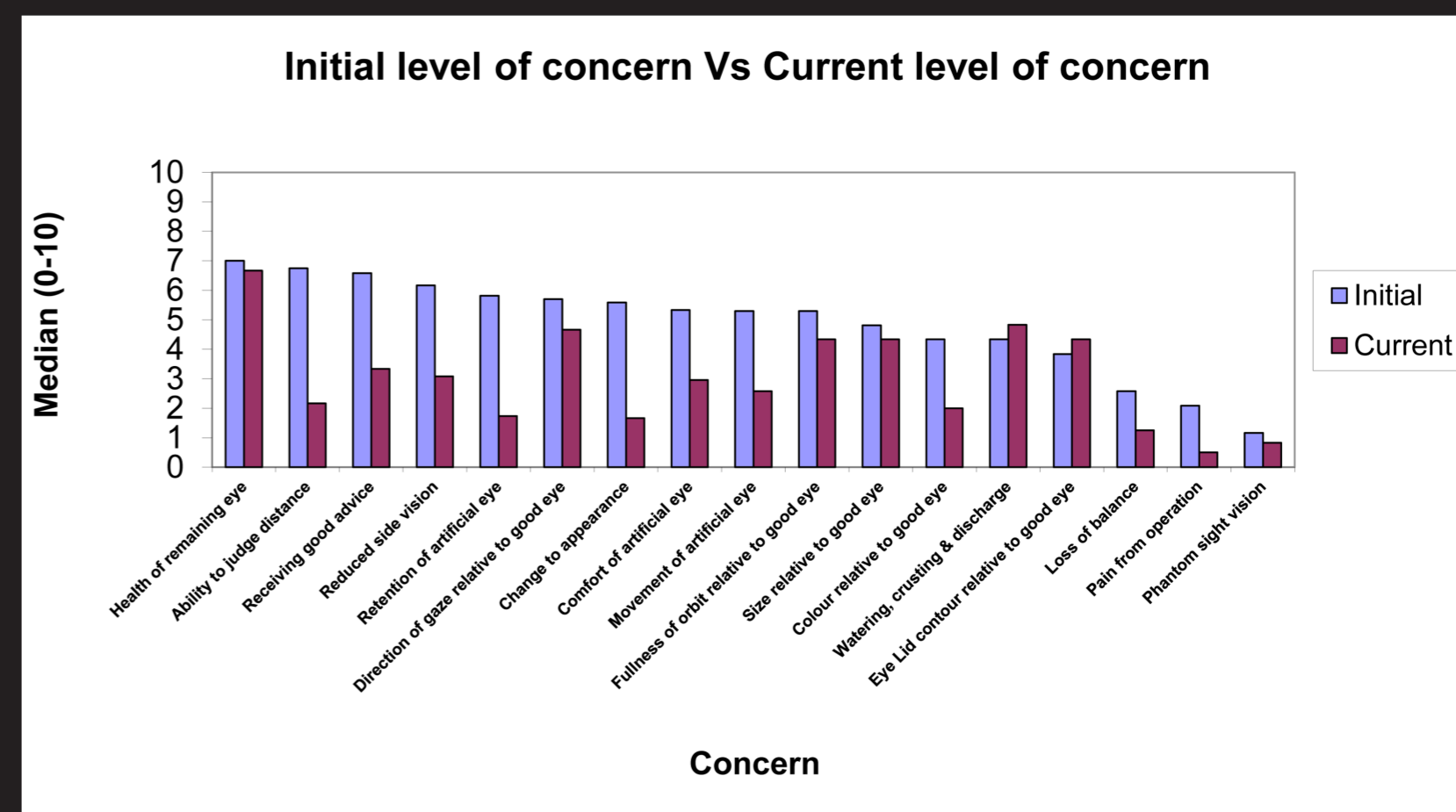
An anonymous questionnaire was posted to 63 experienced artificial eye wearers. They were asked to use visual analogue scales to mark their level of concern about each of 8 general factors associated with artificial eye wear. For each factor the participants were asked to recall how concerned they were when they initially lost their eye and also their present-day level of concern.

Results

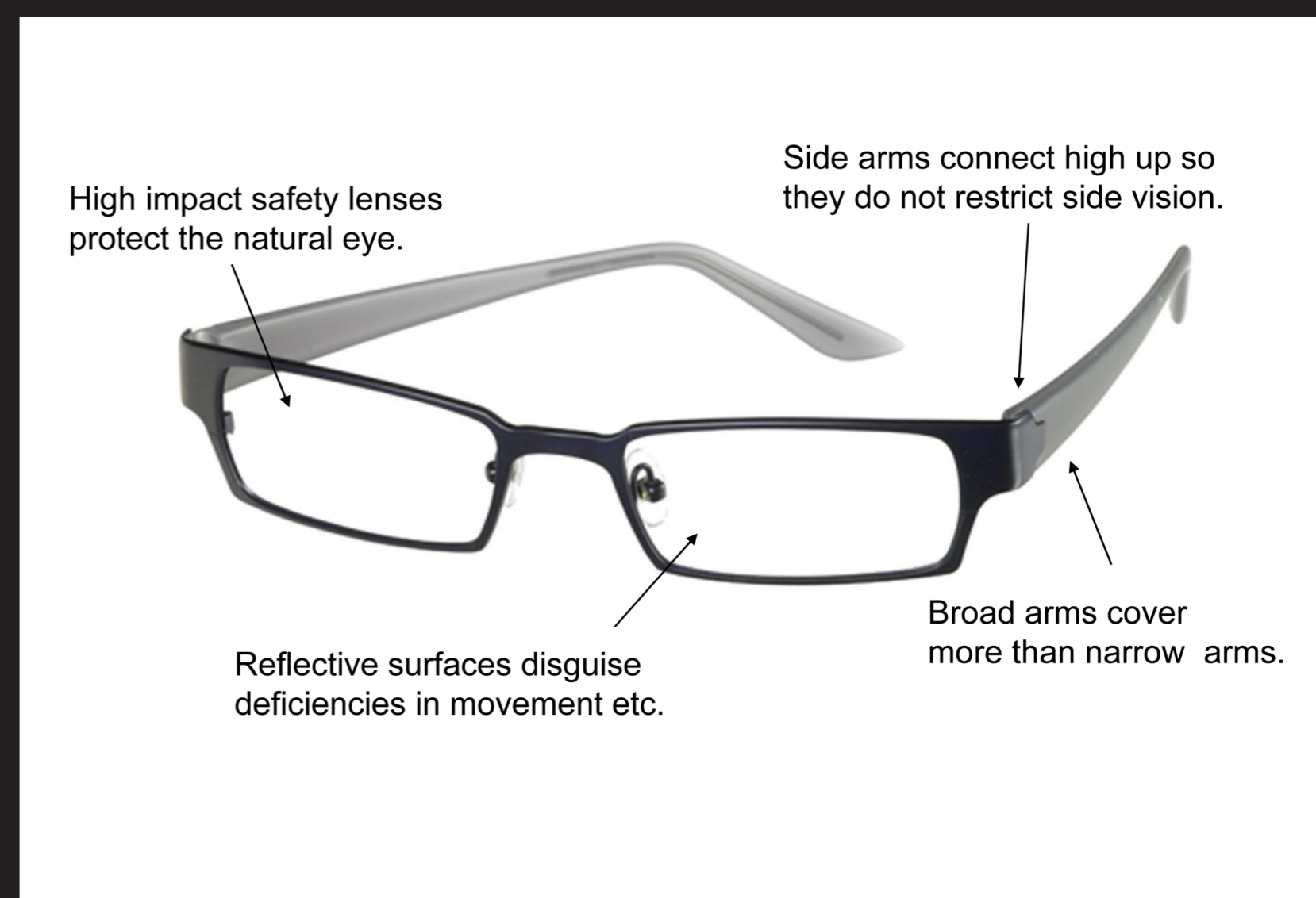
At time of initial eye loss, participants were mainly concerned about the health of their remaining eye, coping with monocular vision and receiving good advice. Between initial eye loss and the present, reductions in concern occurred with judging distance, peripheral vision, appearance, receiving good advice, comfort, retention, colour and movement of the artificial eye, fullness of orbit, loss of balance and post operative pain. Patients whose jobs involved the public were more concerned about appearance and reduced visual range than those in other occupations. Participants' chief present day concerns were health of the remaining eye and watering, crusting and discharge.

Conclusions

The study highlights the importance to anophthalmic patients of the health of their remaining eye and their need for good advice at the time of eye loss. Anophthalmic patients' initial concerns about ability to judge distance, reduced peripheral vision and change to appearance all decrease over time. Patients whose occupations involve face to face contact with the public are more concerned about their appearance and reduced visual range than those whose jobs do not involve the public. Watering, crusting and discharge warrants further study as this problem is a pervasive and inconvenient condition associated with artificial eye wear – it was the main current concern for anophthalmic patients after health of the remaining eye.



The concerns of artificial eye wearers change over time.*



The health of the remaining eye is the main concern. Wearing glasses affords protection and also helps to camouflage the prosthesis.



Mucoid discharge is the second main concern for anophthalmic patients after health of the remaining eye.