

The Role of Glare in Driving – Gary S Rubin, PhD

Abstract

The term “glare” has many different meanings. This presentation reviews the various types of glare encountered during everyday activities, how they are measured in the clinic, and the effects of glare on driving. There is a marked increase in glare sensitivity with age. This is due both to the normal aging process and to the occurrence of age related pathology, especially cataracts. The Salisbury Eye Evaluation study evaluated the effects of glare on motor vehicle crashes and on driving behaviour. While glare sensitivity does not predict crashes, it is related to changes in driving behavior—both the number of miles driven, and especially driving at night. It appears that people who are most affected by glare do a good job of moderating their risk-taking behavior by not driving at night and by reducing the number of miles driven per year, so that they don’t put themselves at risk of crash. The implications of these finding for BiOptic driving will be discussed.