Eye Condition Snippet

Condition Name: Optic Atrophy

Description: A group of diseases involving damage to the optic nerve fibres which carry information from the retina to the brain. There are many different suspected causes, including genetic, pressure to the optic nerve or problems during pregnancy. Some students will develop nystagmus.

Effects on Vision: Depending on the severity the effects can range from near normal vision to light perception only. Most students will have reduced visual acuity, and often the central and colour vision will be more affected. In some cases glasses are prescribed, patching may also be indicated when vision is worse in one eye. Student may also have some field defects, though peripheral vision is usually good.

Educational implications: A functional vision assessment would normally be appropriate to determine visual acuity, font size, crowding and contrast sensitivity. Consider visual acuity and visual fields for placement in the classroom. Where there is colour confusion then resources will need additional references, especially where colour is used as a key. Good task lighting and high contrast materials (black on white) may improve reading speed.