1.1 OVERVIEW

Declines in visual function, such as contrast sensitivity, increase the risk of hip, wrist, and humerus fractures and falls. Uncorrected refractive error and specific eye diseases, such as cataracts, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration, are common in elderly women. The SOF Eye Survey will test the hypothesis that these common and potentially treatable eye diseases increase fall and fracture risk. Besides their scientific value, these findings may influence clinical guidelines and Medicare coverage for preventive eye care. To this end, our study will identify persons in SOF with 1) uncorrected refractive error, 2) visually significant cataract, 3) age-related macular degeneration and/or 4) glaucoma with and without visual field loss. Because the ultimate goal of this research is to identify modifiable risk factors for hip fractures, we will focus on these common ocular conditions that are likely to represent specific and potentially treatable causes of visual loss either currently or in the future.

The eye survey portion of SOF will consist of an interview and a detailed examination. During the interview we will ask participants if they have any chronic eye diseases. We will also ask them about previous eye surgeries for the treatment of glaucoma or cataracts, use of systemic or topical medications, and five questions about their visual functioning.

The eye examination will consist of measurements of acuity using Bailey-Lovie targets with habitual and pinhole correction, a subjective autorefraction test, measurement of intraocular pressure and visual fields. After dilation, photographs of the lens and fundi will be taken. All of these data will be used to detect the four major eye conditions of interest in SOF-ES.

All visual field data and film from lens and fundus photography will be forwarded weekly to the UCLA/JSEI Reading Center. Reading Center personnel will have the film developed and will monitor data quality. The UCLA Reading Center will establish a photographic archive for SOF which will be used to assess whether the four conditions of interest place persons at greater risk for falls and fractures.

1.2 ORGANIZATION

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