

The Wider Psychological Impact *floaters and flashes assessment* of Progressive Sight Loss

Progressive sight loss affects far more than the physical experience of seeing less clearly, and its psychological impact often extends into relationships, identity and everyday confidence in ways that are easy to underestimate from the outside. Feelings of frustration, anxiety about the future, and occasional grief for previous independence are all common and entirely valid responses. Family relationships can shift too, sometimes in positive ways as loved ones step in with practical support, but sometimes with tension around independence and the pace of adaptation. Open conversations about what kind of support is actually wanted, rather than assumed, tend to ease this adjustment for everyone involved. Social withdrawal is a genuine risk during periods of vision change, particularly if someone feels self-conscious about needing assistance in public settings. Maintaining social connections, even if the format needs to adapt, plays an important role in overall wellbeing during this transition. Professional psychological support, alongside peer support through sight loss charities, offers a valuable combination for many people, addressing both the individual emotional experience and the practical reassurance that comes from connecting with others who understand it firsthand.