

Module 1: We are Alfred

Experience age-related hearing loss and visual changes associated with macular degeneration.

Learning Objectives

- Identify barriers to independent functioning and implement support strategies based on an enhanced understanding of macular degeneration.
- Clearly communicate with elders experiencing hearing loss through use of body language and face to face communication.
- Recognize the physical, social and emotional impact that vision and hearing loss have on individuals.

Discussion Questions

1. How did you feel while embodying Alfred?
 - a. Why did you feel that way?
 - b. What did you think was happening when Alfred was in the scene with the flowers?
2. Do you feel the cognitive test results accurately reflected your cognition? Why/Why not?
 - a. What could the doctor have done differently to achieve more accurate results?
3. Which Activities of Daily Living do you feel might be challenging for someone living with a visual impairment like macular degeneration?
 - a. As a caregiver, what are some things you might do to empower them?
4. What did you notice about the connection between your hearing impairment and your ability to comprehend written information?
 - a. Why do you think this happens?

Who is Alfred?



Alfred James is a 74 year old man living with Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and High-Frequency hearing loss. He is a proud, intelligent man who is frustrated by the recent changes to his vision and hearing.

People You'll Meet



Joey is Alfred's adult son. He is concerned about the changes he has noticed in Alfred's coordination and perceived comprehension.



Dr. Jones is the physician who will be evaluating Alfred's cognitive status and helping identify adaptive equipment to improve his hearing function.



External Resources

Non-Embodied Labs informative links and activities

Module 2: At the Peripheral

Meet Tom, a vision loss specialist who lives with macular degeneration. Witness discussions around macular degeneration and treatment options, observe people's reaction to vision aid technology.

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People You'll Meet



Tom Perski was diagnosed at the age of 22 with juvenile Macular Degeneration. Tom is the vice president of a renowned vision rehabilitation center where he connects individuals living with vision impairment to emerging technologies that help them “hack” their vision.

Discussion Questions

1. What emotions and feelings did you see when Anita was communicating with Dr. Crumbliss about her macular degeneration and other vision conditions? Did those emotions change over the course of the exam?
2. What were some assistive devices that were highlighted in this module?
 - a. Do you have access to any of these?
 - b. Can you think of someone you care for who could benefit from them?
3. After witnessing Joe's reaction to seeing his wife's face clearly, how do you feel the low vision goggles could impact Joe's ability to be in relationships with others?
4. How did you feel about Tom's bike ride?
 - a. In your opinion, is quality of life more important than potential safety risks?



External Resources

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