

Key points

Question: Are self-reported age and/or reason for first wearing optical correction accurate in identifying refractive status?

Findings: In this UK adult population, both self-report of the reason for and age of first wearing glasses were found to have good accuracy for identification of myopia compared to spherical equivalent (autorefraction), in the more extreme eye. The accuracy improved if the information was combined. Overall, the prediction of hypermetropia was poor.

Meaning: Questions relating to age and/or reason for first wearing optical correction could be implemented effectively in large-scale generic population-based studies on refractive error.