



Visual Field Loss / Neglect

What is “visual field loss”?

Visual field is the complete, central, and peripheral range of vision. Visual field loss can be partial or complete. For example, it can range from a nearly complete loss of peripheral vision to a small area of partial loss. It is also called “visual field cut”. People with visual field loss may have problems seeing objects out of the corner(s) of their eyes, losing their place while reading, being startled by people or objects moving toward them, or bumping into people and objects.

What is “neglect”?

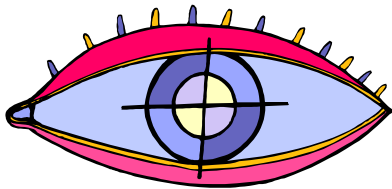
Visual neglect* is a decreased awareness of part of the field of view. It is not an active or conscious act. A person with visual neglect may have problems knowing stimuli on one side of the body. It is also called “visual inattention”. Neglect is a more severe visual problem when a person does not pay attention to their body or environment on the affected side. It is important to note that neglect has a significant lasting affect to a person’s life. This usually occurs on the left side of the body (right brain problems).

Who will have the problems of visual field loss or neglect?

Traumatic brain injury, brain tumor, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and other neurological illnesses can cause these types of visual problems. Visual field loss or neglect can affect a person’s driving skills. People with visual field loss may or may not have neglect at the same time. If a person has both visual field loss and neglect, then there is a tendency to disregard the area of the field loss, for example, ignoring the left side of the environment or even the left side of the body.

Is there any treatment?

Rehabilitation can be helpful for people with visual field loss or neglect. Scanning therapy, optical field awareness devices, and adaptive strategies recommended by a neuro-optometrist and an occupational therapist can be helpful. The whole rehabilitation team can help improve awareness and compensate for these problems through a rehabilitation program designed specifically for that specific person. In addition, family members and friends can learn more about ways to help their loved one.



*Visual neglect is also called “hemispatial agnosia”, “visual spatial neglect” or “hemi-imperception”.

Disclaimer: This information is for health educational purposes only. If you have questions, you should ask your doctor, nurse, or other persons who you see for your health care needs. Each clinician caring for the patient is responsible for determining the most appropriate care.

Provided as a courtesy by:

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