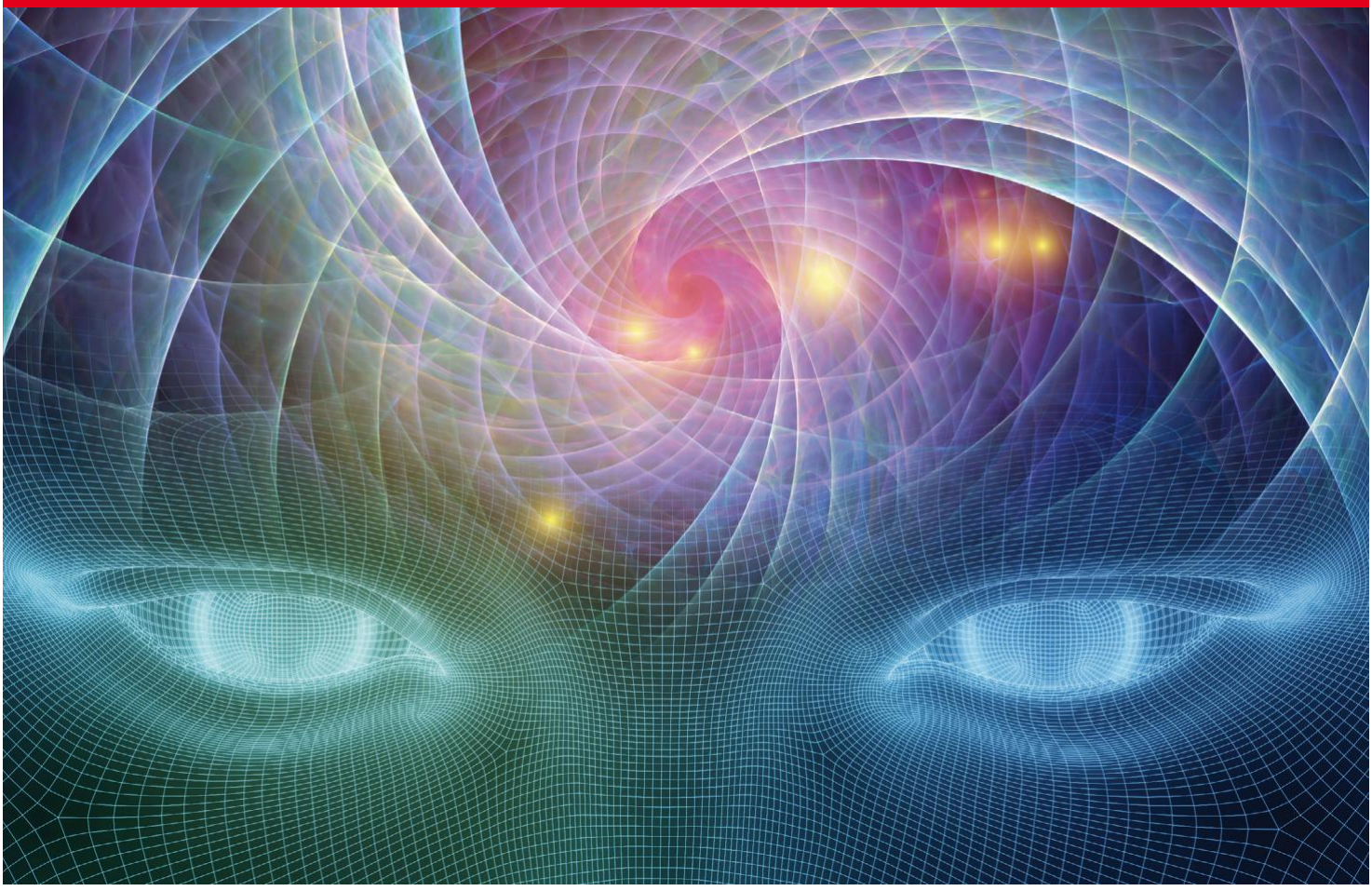
BIOS | BRITISH AND IRISH ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

Easy Read Version

Visual Perception Defects following Stroke or Brain Injury



Visual Perception Defects following Stroke or Brain Injury

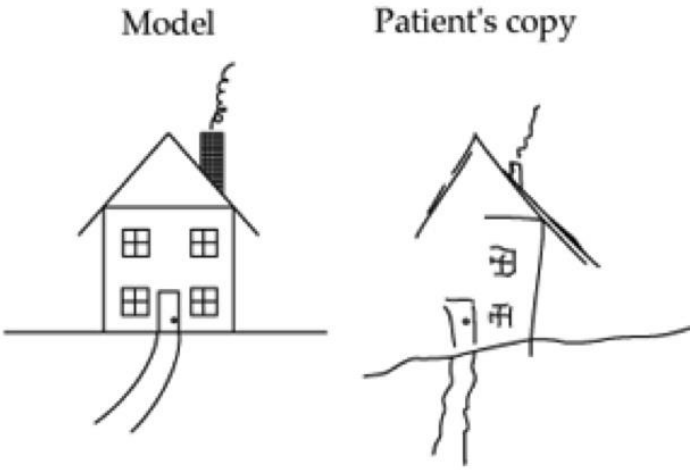
Visual perception problems

The brain controls what we see with our eyes.

When the brain is damaged by stroke or brain injury vision can be affected.

Visual neglect or visual inattention

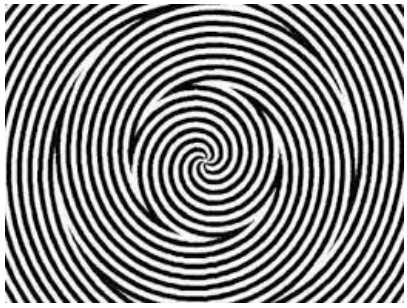
When you ignore your vision to one side.



Visual Hallucinations

Can happen after a sudden loss of vision.

Sometimes called Charles Bonnet Syndrome.



They can be often simple shapes like lines.

Seen in low lighting and at bedtime.

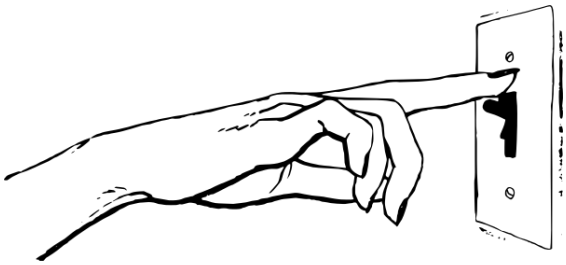
Often will go away given time.

Example of a visual hallucination with right sided vision loss

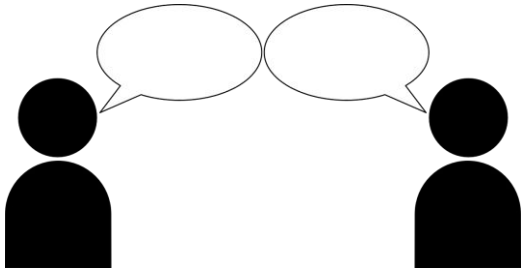
Treatments for hallucinations

You could try:

- Standing up and moving around
- Blinking



- Switching lights on and off
- Look at or to the hallucination
- Walk away from it



- Talk to others

Some people find hallucinations very upsetting.

Speak with your orthoptist or doctor.

Agnosia

When you do not know what something or someone is for example colours, faces, objects.

Other perception disorders

Can change :

- How you see the shape and size of objects
- Read
- How you see things that are moving

Treatment for visual perception problems

Use other senses like touch and hearing.

Driving and perception problems

No driving for one month after stroke.

Perception problems can prevent driving.

Talk with your orthoptist or medical team.

More information is available from

Esme's Umbrella

Website: www.charlesbonnetsyndrome.uk/

British and Irish Orthoptic Society

Website: www.orthoptics.org.uk

The Stroke Association

Website: www.stroke.org.uk

Headway

Website: www.headway.org.uk

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

Website: www.rnib.org.uk

This leaflet was made by the Stroke and Neurological Rehabilitation Clinical Advisory Group Steering committee in February 2022.

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see www.orthoptics.org.uk/ for more information