

# Eye (Vision) Changes After a Stroke

## General Information

A stroke can cause problems with your vision. Your symptoms can vary depending on where the stroke occurred in your brain.

Vision problems can fall into 3 categories:

- vision loss
- perception problems
- problems with the eye muscles.

A stroke that occurs in the left hemisphere of your brain can affect the right visual field of each eye, while a right hemisphere stroke can affect the left visual field of each eye.

This means you do not have your full vision.

## Vision Problems

❑ **Vision loss** (visual field loss) is having blind spots in your field of vision. Different types of visual loss include:

- blindness in one half of your eye
- a spot (or island) of loss
- peripheral (side) vision loss.
- full blindness in one eye.

❑ **Visual perception problems** makes it hard to process or figure out what the eye sees. This can cause you to:

- have poor attention to one side of the world

- not really understand what a common object is or what it does
- see distorted objects or faces
- not be able to recall something you have seen before.

❑ **Visual motor problems** (eye muscle problems) are caused by damage to your mid brain and brain stem. These areas have 3 pairs of nerves that control your eye movements. This can cause you to:

- have double vision
- think the center point of your sight has shifted either left, right, above or below where it really is (visual midline shift)
- have dry eyes because your ability to blink is affected
- be able to see things at a distance but not focus on something near right after
- problems watching objects move.

## Treatment Options

Talk with your therapist about your treatment options. A treatment plan will be created to help expand your visual field.