

# Eye movement direction not correlated with lying, study claims

July 11 2012

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New research refutes a commonly held belief that certain eye movements are associated with lying.

The idea that looking to the right indicates lying, while looking left suggests truth telling, is shown to be false in a report published July 11 in the [open access](#) journal [PLoS ONE](#).

The researchers, led by Caroline Watt of the University of Edinburgh, completed three different studies to show that there was no correlation between the direction of eye movement and whether the subject was telling the truth or lying.

"A large percentage of the public believes that certain [eye movements](#)

are a sign of lying, and this idea is even taught in organisational training courses." Watt notes. "Our research provides no support for the idea and so suggests that it is time to abandon this approach to detecting deceit"

**More information:** Wiseman R, Watt C, ten Brinke L, Porter S, Couper S-L, et al. (2012) The Eyes Don't Have It: Lie Detection and Neuro-Linguistic Programming. *PLoS ONE* 7(7): e40259.  
[doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0040259](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0040259)

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Citation: Eye movement direction not correlated with lying, study claims (2012, July 11)  
retrieved 26 April 2024 from  
<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-07-eye-movement-lying.html>

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