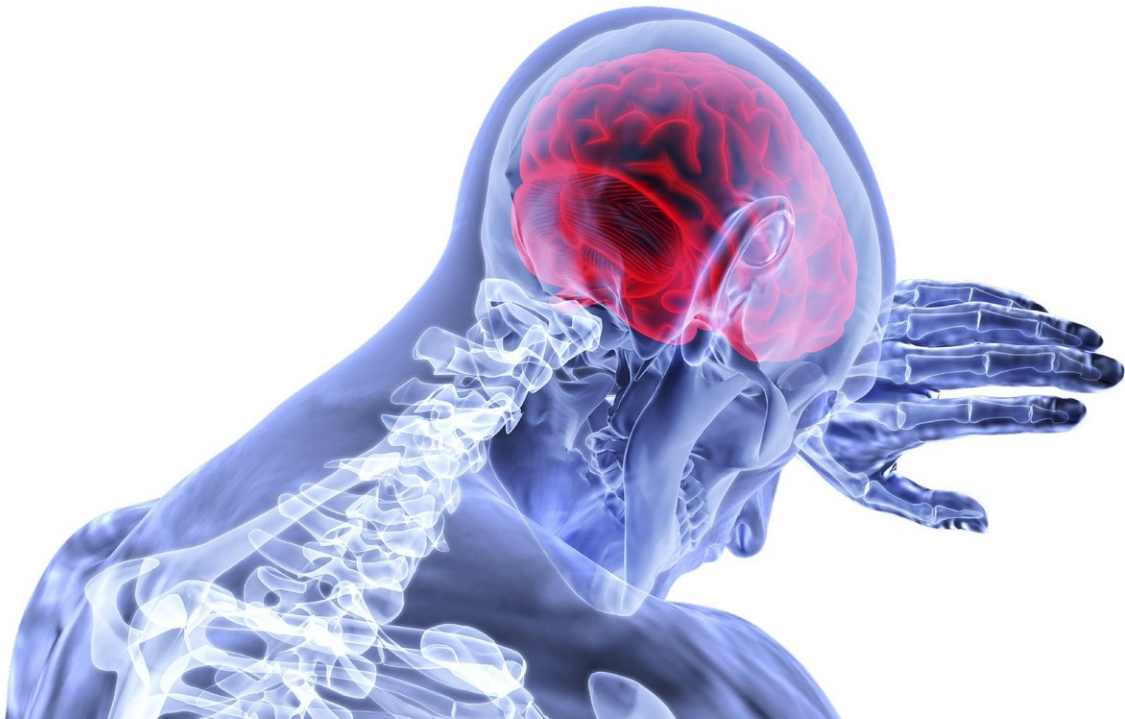


# New study highlights 'alarmingly high' rate of visual problems in stroke survivors

March 8 2019

---



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

A new University study, published in *PLOS One*, highlights the high incidence and prevalence of visual problems in acute stroke survivors.

A stroke is a serious life-threatening [medical condition](#) that occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. The injury to the brain

caused by a stroke can lead to widespread and long-lasting problems. Currently, visual problems are often under-reported by survivors of acute strokes.

In order to ascertain the number of new cases of Post stroke [visual impairment](#) (PSVI) and their prevalence, researchers from the University's Department of Health Services Research, led by Professor Fiona Rowe, examined stroke assessments of 1033 patients from three stroke units over one year.

During their hospital stay each patient's [visual acuity](#), visual fields, ocular alignment, ocular motility, visual inattention and [visual perception](#) was assessed by an orthoptist.

The researchers found that the average number of days (post-stroke) before a visual screening was conducted was three and for a full visual assessment the average was four days.

Excluding pre-existent eye problems, the incidence of new onset visual conditions was 48 percent for all stroke admissions and 60 percent in stroke survivors.

Three quarters (752/1033 – 73 percent) had visual problems: 56 percent with impaired central vision, 40 percent eye movement abnormalities, 28 percent visual field loss, 27 percent visual inattention, 5 percent visual perceptual disorders.

Of the research Professor Rowe, said: "Incidence and prevalence of visual problems in acute stroke is alarming high, affecting over half the survivors.

"There are a wide range of visual disorders that occur following stroke and, frequently, with visual symptoms. There are equally a wide variety

of treatment options available for these individuals.

"Our research shows that early visual screening and assessment is feasible and achievable within 72 hours of stroke onset and for those initially unable to be visually assessed, most can be assessed within one week of stroke onset.

"It is important to detect visual problems, regardless of whether it is pre-existent or of new onset, and disseminate the functional consequences and impact of this to patients, carers and stroke teams so this can be accounted for in activities of daily living and general mobilisation/rehabilitation. There are likely wide-ranging benefits to patients, their carers and the NHS through early and accurate identification of [stroke](#)-related visual problems."

**More information:** Fiona J. Rowe et al. High incidence and prevalence of visual problems after acute stroke: An epidemiology study with implications for service delivery, *PLOS ONE* (2019). [DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0213035](#)

Provided by University of Liverpool

Citation: New study highlights 'alarmingly high' rate of visual problems in stroke survivors (2019, March 8) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-03-highlights-alarmingly-high-visual-problems.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--