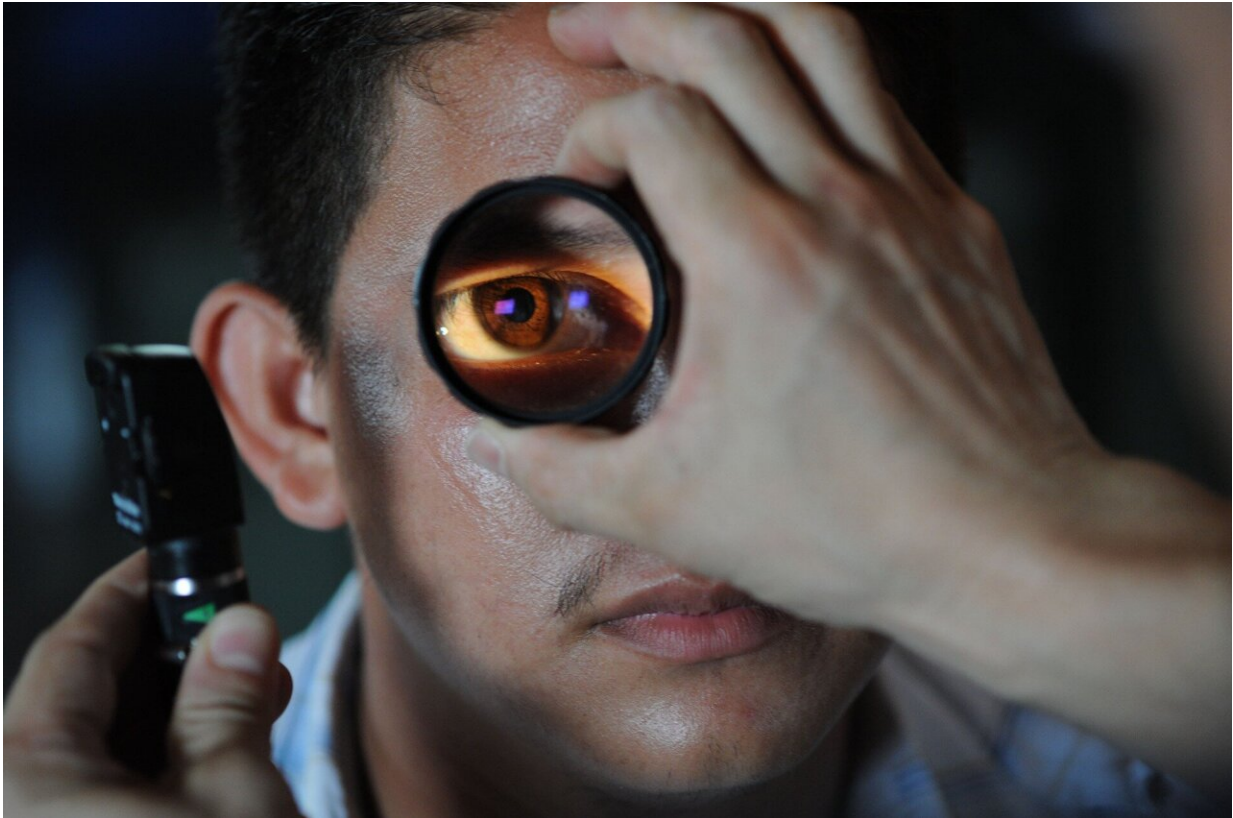


How does stroke impact your vision?

August 2 2022, by Padmaja Sudhakar



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

The visual pathway is very long and goes from the eyes to the occipital lobe, which is the region in the cerebral hemisphere that processes vision. Since the visual pathway goes through the cerebral hemisphere on each side, stroke affecting certain areas of the cerebral hemisphere will impact the visual pathway and produce visual field loss.

Patients will notice missing areas in peripheral vision. In a bilateral occipital lobe stroke, a patient may experience profound loss of vision in both eyes.

When the [carotid artery](#) in the neck or in the head is blocked from a clot, this clot may spread to the artery supplying the retina and can cause vision loss.

There are certain areas in the brain which operate as perceptual segments of the [visual pathway](#). When this is affected through [stroke](#) there may be impaired visuospatial function, impaired visual attention or deficits in visual recognition.

When the [brain stem](#) is affected, a patient may experience [double vision](#) since it can affect cranial nerves that control eye movements. Eyes will be misaligned in such cases.

Stroke can sometimes cause darting movements of the eye called nystagmus. Some strokes can cause unequal pupils.

Are there warning signs of a stroke that affect your eyes?

A person should be concerned if they have the following symptoms:

1. Transient loss of vision in one or both eyes.
2. Sudden severe vision loss in one or both eyes.
3. Missing areas in the peripheral field.
4. Right or left sided loss of [peripheral vision](#).
5. Double vision.
6. Symptoms of dizziness.
7. Darting eye movements.

What should I do if I experience these symptoms?

If you experience the above symptoms, seek immediate attention. Do not wait for symptoms to resolve or improve on their own. You should get your eyes urgently checked with your local eye doctor. If you are unable to get an immediate eye exam, please get yourself evaluated in the nearest emergency room as soon as possible.

Provided by University of Kentucky

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