

Visual problems after stroke

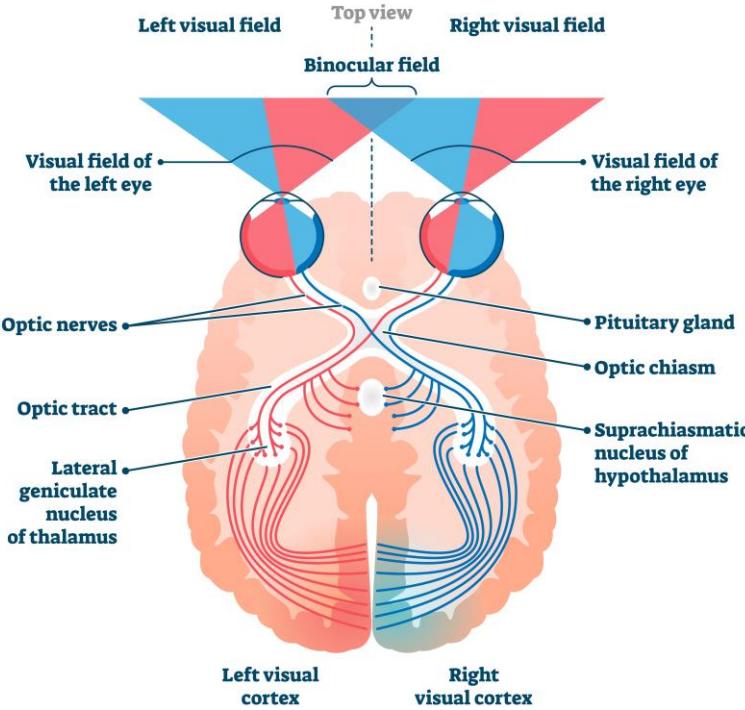
Associate professor Torgeir Solberg Mathisen

National Centre for Optics, Vision and Eye Care, Coordinator Norwegian Vision in Stroke (NorVIS) network

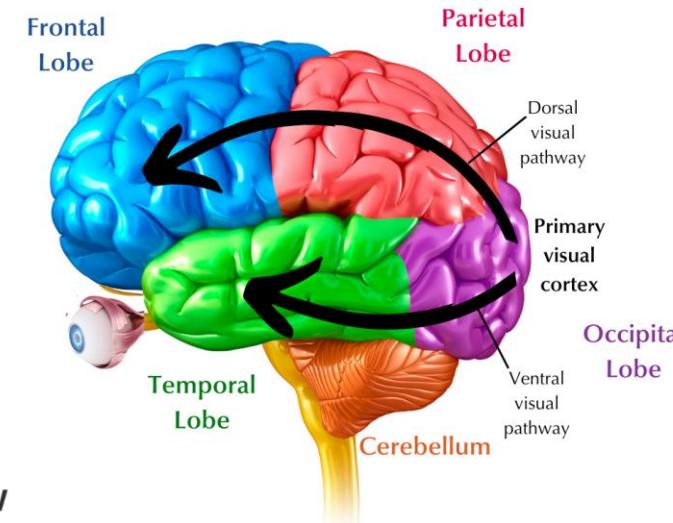
Professor Helle K. Falkenberg, National Centre for Optics, Vision and Eye Care

We see with our brain

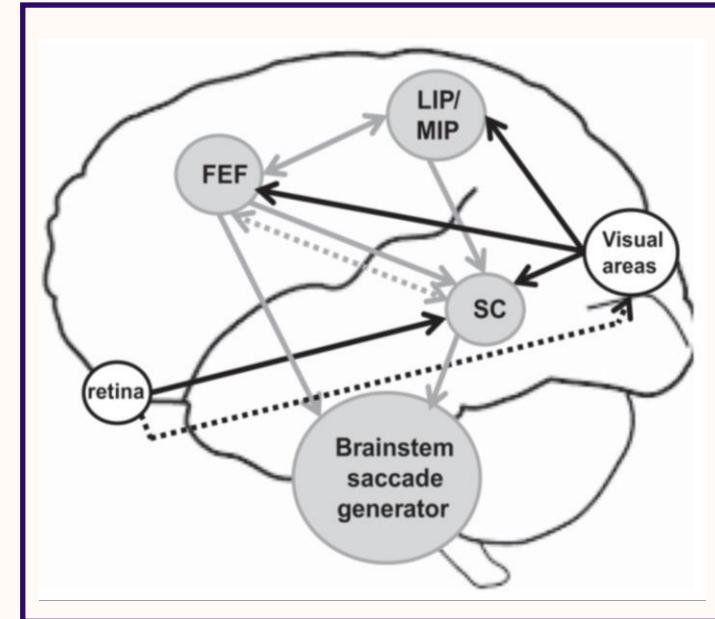
VISUAL PATHWAY



FEF – frontal eyefield
LIP/MIP - lateral and medial intraparietal cortex
SC – superior colliculus.
Caruso et al., 2018



CVI
NOW



RESEARCH ARTICLE

High incidence and prevalence of visual problems after acute stroke: An epidemiology study with implications for service delivery

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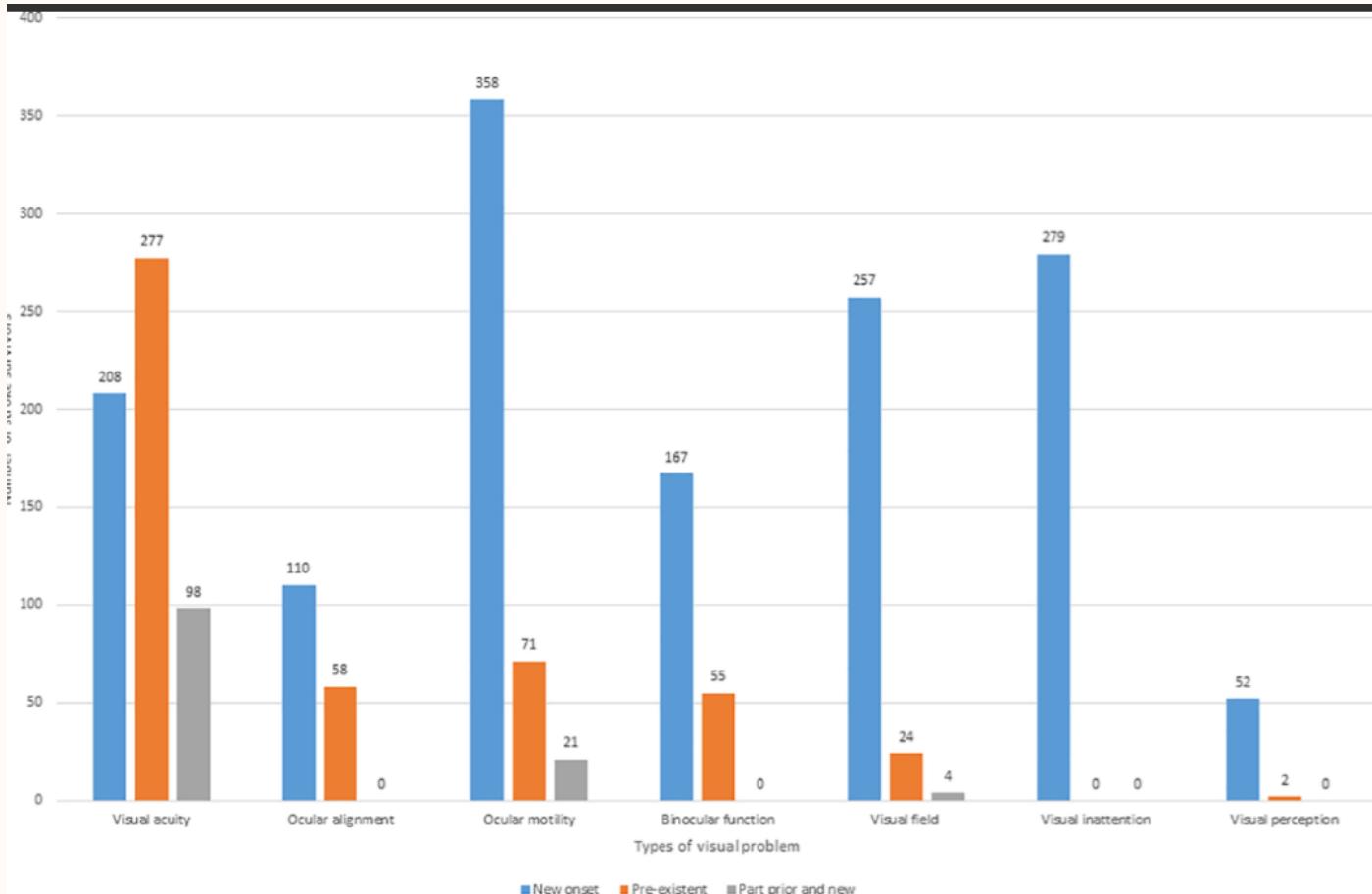
Abstract

Background

Visual problems are an under-reported sequela following stroke. The aim of this study is to report annual incidence and point prevalence of visual problems in an acute adult stroke population and to explore feasibility of early timing of visual assessment.

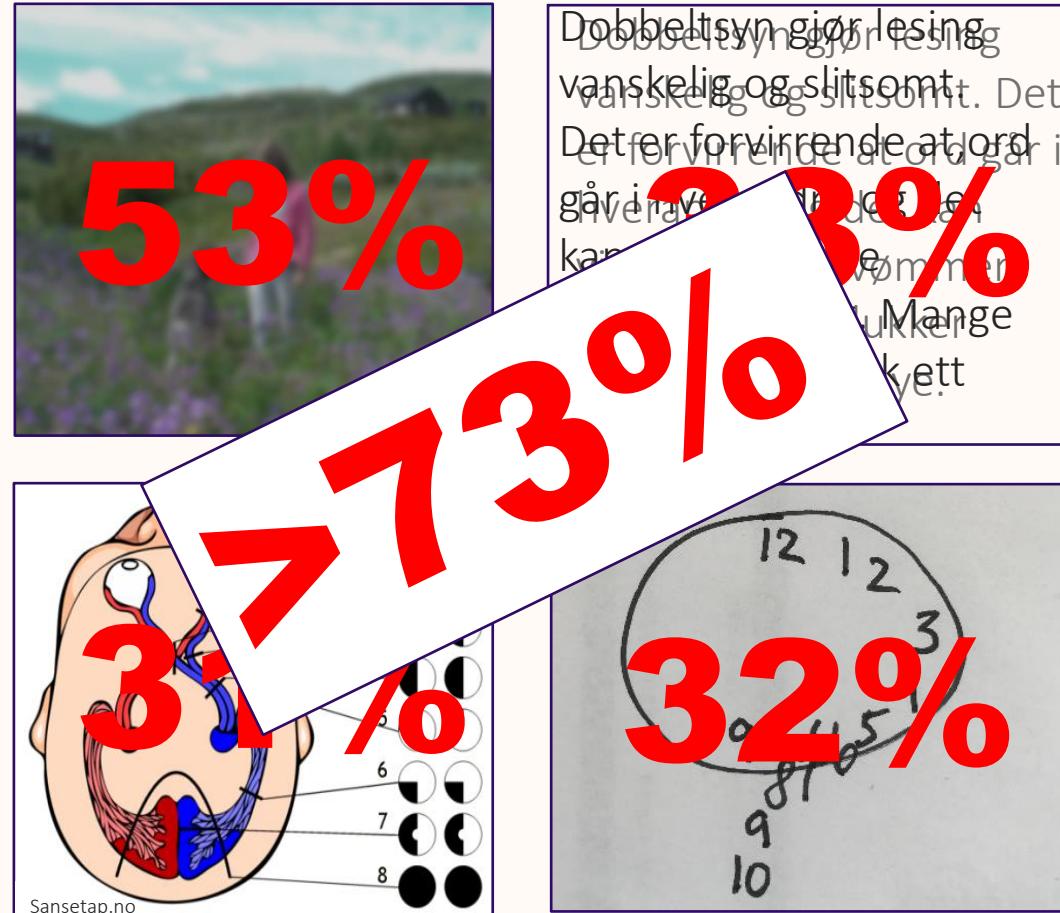
Methods and findings

Multi-centre acute stroke unit, prospective, epidemiology study (1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015). Orthoptists reviewed all patients with assessment of visual acuity, visual fields, ocular alignment, ocular motility, visual inattention and visual perception. 1033 patients underwent visual screening at a median of 2 days (IQR 0) and full visual assessment at a median of 4



Vision problems are common after stroke

- Norway 12 000 stroke cases per year (36/day)
- 7 000 persons per year (20/day) experience vision problems



“Sometimes when things turn bad, I really just want to take a pill and be done with it. Not having to struggle with everything... for example, paying the bills. It feels hopeless. I have tried for a long period, but I can’t get the numbers right....

Falkenberg, Mathisen, Ormstad & Eilertsen, 2020



Post stroke vision problems are underreported by patients

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

How to assess visual function in acquired brain injury—Asking is not enough

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Funding information
The County Council of Stockholm; The

Abstract
Background: Acquired brain injury affects many brain areas and causes a range of dysfunctions including vision-related issues. These issues can have negative impacts on rehabilitation progress and activities of daily life but may easily be overlooked. There is no common recommendation about how to assess visual impairments after ABI. The purpose of this study was to estimate the frequency of objectively measured oculomotor dysfunctions, and also how these findings are related to two inventories intended to support detection of visual impairment.
Methods: The study was cross-sectional and included 73 outpatients. In addition to the standard evaluation program, the patients went through a comprehensive ophtalmometric examination. The inventories used were the Vision Interview (VI) and the Convergence Insufficiency Symptom Survey (CISS).

“Eye” Don’t See: An Analysis of Visual Symptom Reporting by Stroke Survivors from a Large Epidemiology Study

Lauren R Hepworth, PhD • Claire Howard, PhD • Kerry L Hanna, PhD • Jim Currie • Fiona J Rowe, PhD  

Published: April 01, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jstrokecerebrovasdis.2021.105759>

Abstract

Aim

The purpose was to explore the reported symptoms of post-stroke visual epidemiology study.

Methods

Visual assessment, including a case history, visual acuity, ocular alignment,





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Vision needs to assessed

"Yeah, they—maybe they primarily do not have it in their checklist. Because it should be just as important to check your vision as it is to check if your arm works or not! But if your eyes work? Not at all! It is not even on their list!"

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



"Invisible" visual impairments. A qualitative study of stroke survivors' experience of vision symptoms, health services and impact of visual impairments

Helle K. Falkenberg^{1,2*}, Torgeir S. Mathisen^{1,2}, Heidi Ormstad³ and Grethe Eilertsen^{2,3}

Abstract

Background: Visual impairments (VIs) have a negative impact on life and affect up to 60% of stroke survivors. Despite this, VIs are often overlooked. This paper explores how persons with VIs experience vision care within stroke health services and how VIs impact everyday life the first 3 months post stroke.

Methods: Individual semi-structured interviews were conducted with 10 stroke survivors 3 months post stroke, and analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Results: The main theme, "Invisible" visual impairments, represents how participants experience VIs as an unknown and difficult symptom of stroke and that the lack of attention and appropriate visual care leads to uncertainty about the future. VIs were highlighted as a main factor hindering the participants living life as before. The lack of acknowledgement, information, and systematic vision rehabilitation leads to feelings of being unsupported in the process of coping with VIs.

Conclusion: VIs are unknown symptoms pre stroke and sequelas after stroke that significantly affect everyday life. VIs and vision rehabilitation needs more attention through all phases of stroke health services. We request a greater awareness of VIs as a presenting symptom of stroke, and that visual symptoms should be included in stroke awareness campaigns. Further, we suggest increased competence and standardized evidence-based clinical pathways for VIs to advance all stroke health services including rehabilitation in order to improve outcomes and adaptation to future life for stroke survivors with VIs.

Keywords: Rehabilitation, Qualitative research, Municipal- and specialist health care services, Health care professionals, Vision

Falkenberg, Mathisen, Ormstad & Eilertsen, 2020

ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL PROBLEMS AFTER ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY: A SURVEY OF CURRENT PRACTICE IN DANISH HOSPITALS

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Objectives: To explore current hospital practice in relation to the assessment of vision problems in patients with acquired brain injury.

Design: A survey study.

Subjects: A total of 143 respondents from hospital settings, with background in occupational therapy and physical therapy, participated in the survey.

Methods: The survey questionnaire, developed collaboratively by Danish and Norwegian research groups, encompassed 22 items categorically covering "Background information", "Clinical experience and current practice", "Vision assessment tools and protocols", and "Assessment barriers". It was sent out online, to 29 different hospital departments and 18 separate units for occupational therapists and physiotherapists treating patients with acquired brain injury.

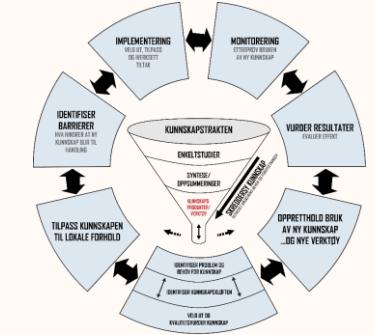
Results: Most respondents worked in acute or subacute hospital settings. Few departments had an interdisciplinary vision team, and very few therapists had formal education in visual problems after acquired brain injury. Visual assessment practices varied, and there was limited use of standardized tests. Barriers to identifying visual problems included patient-related challenges, knowledge gaps, and resource limitations.

LAY ABSTRACT

Vision problems are common after acquired brain injury, but no clear national guideline in Denmark exists in relation to assessing vision problems. This study looked at how therapists identify vision problems in patients who have acquired a brain injury. We surveyed 143 therapists working in hospitals. Interestingly, only a few had a practical guideline for how to do the assessment. Moreover, very few worked in teams, and therapists did not have much formal training on these problems. Therapists had different ways of assessing patients' vision, and some faced challenges like not having enough knowledge or resources. The study suggests that better interdisciplinary teamwork is needed, more education, and common ways of checking vision problems after a brain injury to improve how we treat patients with vision problems in Denmark.

(2), healthcare professionals, and society (3–6). Various aspects of visual processing lead to a wide range of visual impairments (7), including reduced visual acuity, visual field defects, oculomotor dysfunction, binocular vision abnormalities, and higher-level visual

The KROSS KTA project



University of
South-Eastern No



Helsedirektoratet



LHL Hjerneslag



National Centre for
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Bakgrunnsinformasjon

Navn:	Date for testing:	Tid siden hjerneslaget:
		Diagnose (hvis kjent):
Fødselsdato:		

Opplysninger om syn og synsymptom (marker)

1. Tidligere kjente øyesykdommer	a. Grå stær/katarakt	c. Forkalkning/AMD	JA	NEI
	b. Grønn stær/glaukom	d. Annet		
2. Bruker personen briller	a. Avstands-/tv-kjeglebrille	d. Egen <u>brille</u> er ikke tilgjengelig		
	b. Lesebrille	e. Kontaktlinser		
3. Opplever selv endring i synet etter hjerneslaget?	c. Flerstyrke/progressiv	f. Lupebrille		
Hvis ja, spesifiser:				
4. Har family/ fagpersoner rapportert endring i synet etter hjerneslaget?	Hvis ja, spesifiser:			

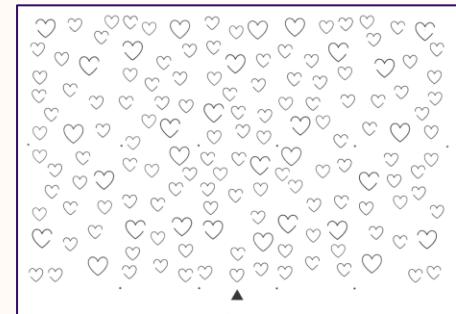
Skarpsyn/Visus/ Sentralsyn (marker)

5. Ser selv ukjart/takete etter slaget	På nært (lesing)/ på avstand (tv)	JA	NEI
6. Synsskarphet på avstand (3 m)	Kan se minst tre bokstaver på øverste linje (0,3 visus) - hvis JA, test midterste linje	Høyre	
Utført med / uten brille	Venstre		
Test ett øye om gangen med tv/avstandsbille om personen bruker dette.	Høyre		
	Venstre		
7. Kan lese avistekst	Utført med / uten lesebrille (begge øyne)		

Synsfelt (marker)

8. Opplever selv mangler i synsfellet el.	Hvis ja, spesifiser:	JA	NEI
9. Observasjon av orienteringsvansker	Hvis ja, spesifiser:		
10. Synsfelt yttergrens	Er det utfall i deler av synsfellet?		
Test ett øye om gangen uten brille.	Øyefeltet skraver kvartrand som mangler i synsfellet slik personen ser det.		
11. Sentralt synsfelt	Er det utfall i sentralsynsfeltet?		
a. ansiktssamler (ett øye om gangen)	a. Hvis ja, skraver området personen ikke ser for hvert øye:		
b. fingertelling (begge øyne)	b. Er det problem med fingertelling?		
	Hvis ja, spesifiser side:		

Skjema er utviklet i prosjektet «Et slag for syn» i Kongsberg kommune, og må tilpasses lokale forhold. Informasjon til bruker: Du har fått en enkel kartlegging og informasjon om synet ditt. Du bør ta med en kopi som informasjon i eventuell videre rehabilitering. Kartleggingen erstatter ikke en full synsundersøkelse, og garanterer ikke at alle typer synsproblem avdekkes. Merker du endringer i synet, kontakt din lokale optiker eller øyelege. V3.0 2023



Veileder KROSS Kartleggingsskjema for syn

ISN Universitet i Sørøst-Norge

Tolkning av skjema: JA svar er som oftest relatert til redusert synsfunksjon med behov for videre oppfølging bortsett fra testing av synsskarphet (visus). Dersom noen punkter ikke undersøkes, blir årsaken spesifisert.

Bakgrunnsinformasjon

Angi dato og persons fødselsår. Ring rundt det som beskriver personen, kjønn, diagnose og NIHSS resultat (vis tilgjengelig). KROSS bruker «person» for å beskrive den som testes (pasient/brukern) i helse-, omsorg- eller opplatringstjeneste.

Opplysninger om syn og synsymptom

- Tidligere kjente øyesykdommer

Utførelse: Spør personen/pårørende om tidligere kjente øyesykdommer.
«Har du fått beskjed om at du har en øyesykdom som f.eks. grå stær (katarakt), grønn stær (glaukom) eller forkalkning (aldersrelatert makuladegenerering, AMD)? Får du behandling med øyedråper av noe slag?»
Dokumentasjon: Ring rundt ett / flere alternativer. Ved annet, skriv diagnose om den er kjent (f.eks. tørre øyne, diabetes retinopati, øyeoperasjon, øyeskade eller liknende).
- Bruker person briller



Assessing barriers

Mathisen et al. BMC Health Services Research (2021) 21:497
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-06467-4>

BMC Health Services Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Barriers and facilitators to the implementation of a structured visual assessment after stroke in municipal health care services

Torgeir S. Mathisen^{1,2*}, Grethe Eilertsen^{2,3}, Heidi Ormstad⁴ and Helle K. Falkenberg^{1,2}



“We got a note from the ophthalmologist, but I did not understand a thing. And I dont think its just me. Its all Greak to me, reading such (vision) reports. Just numbers and letters and some crazy words.”

What we learned so far

“Before the KROSS workshop, I did not know anything about VIs after a stroke. I knew it existed, but in my education, we did not learn anything about it.”

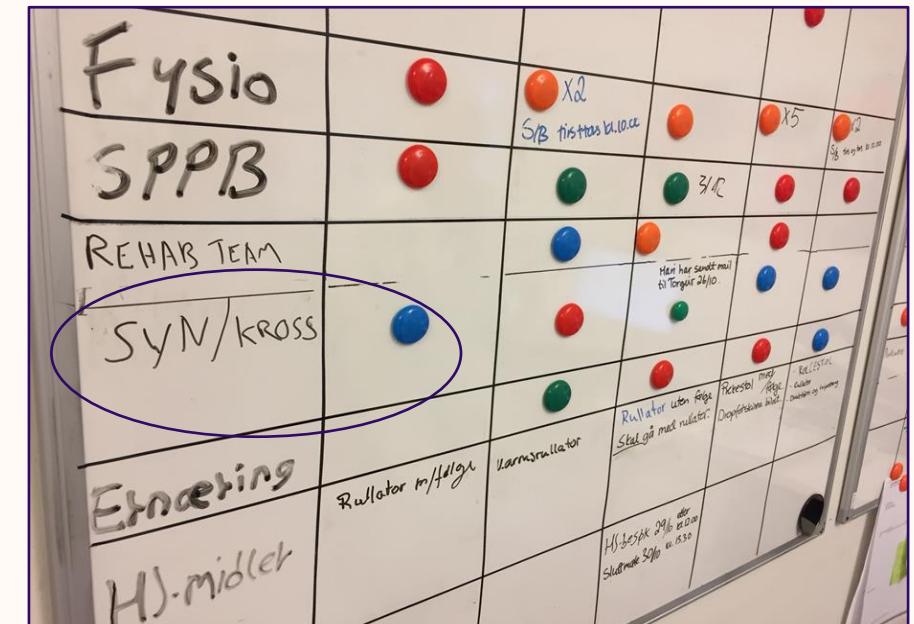
RESEARCH

Open Access



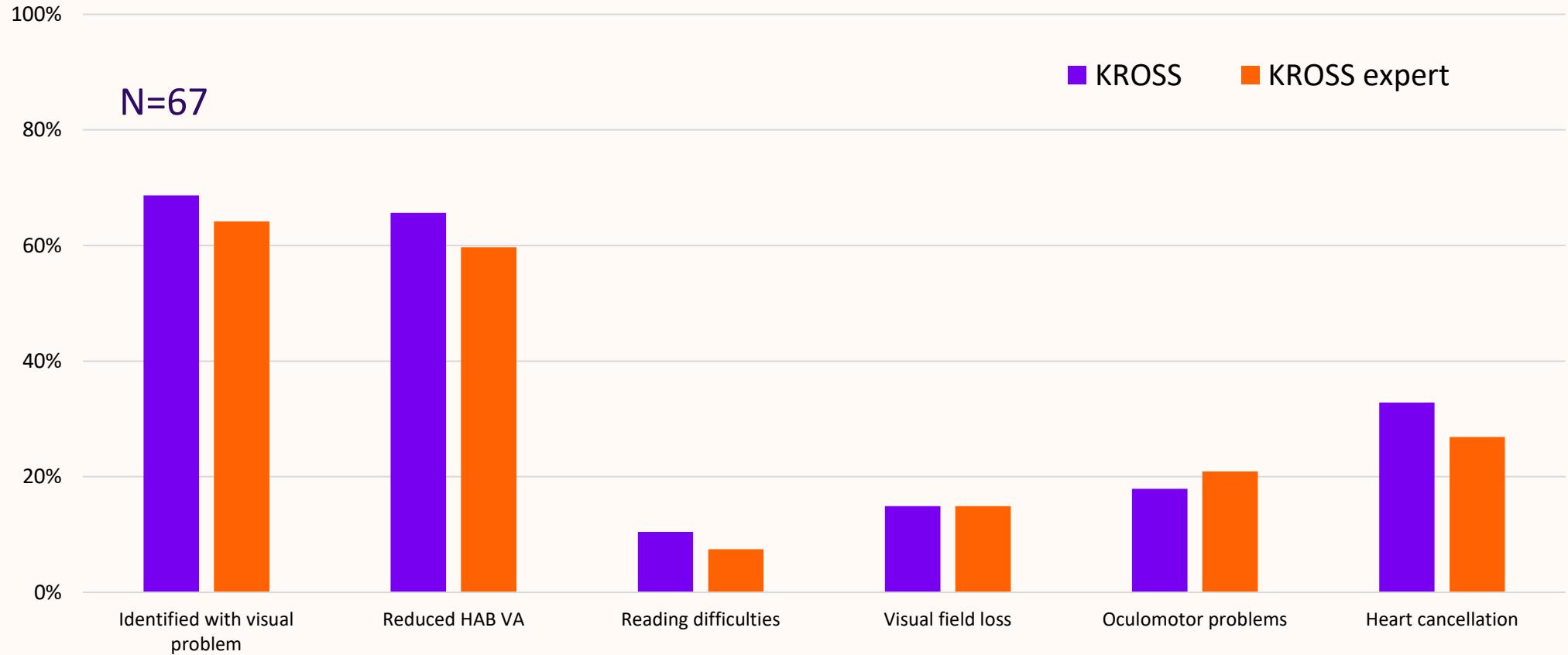
‘If we don’t assess the patient’s vision, we risk starting at the wrong end’: a qualitative evaluation of a stroke service knowledge translation project

Torgeir S. Mathisen^{1,2*}, Grethe Eilertsen^{2,3}, Heidi Ormstad³ and Helle K. Falkenberg^{1,2}



Falkenberg, Mathisen, Ormstad & Eilertsen, 2020

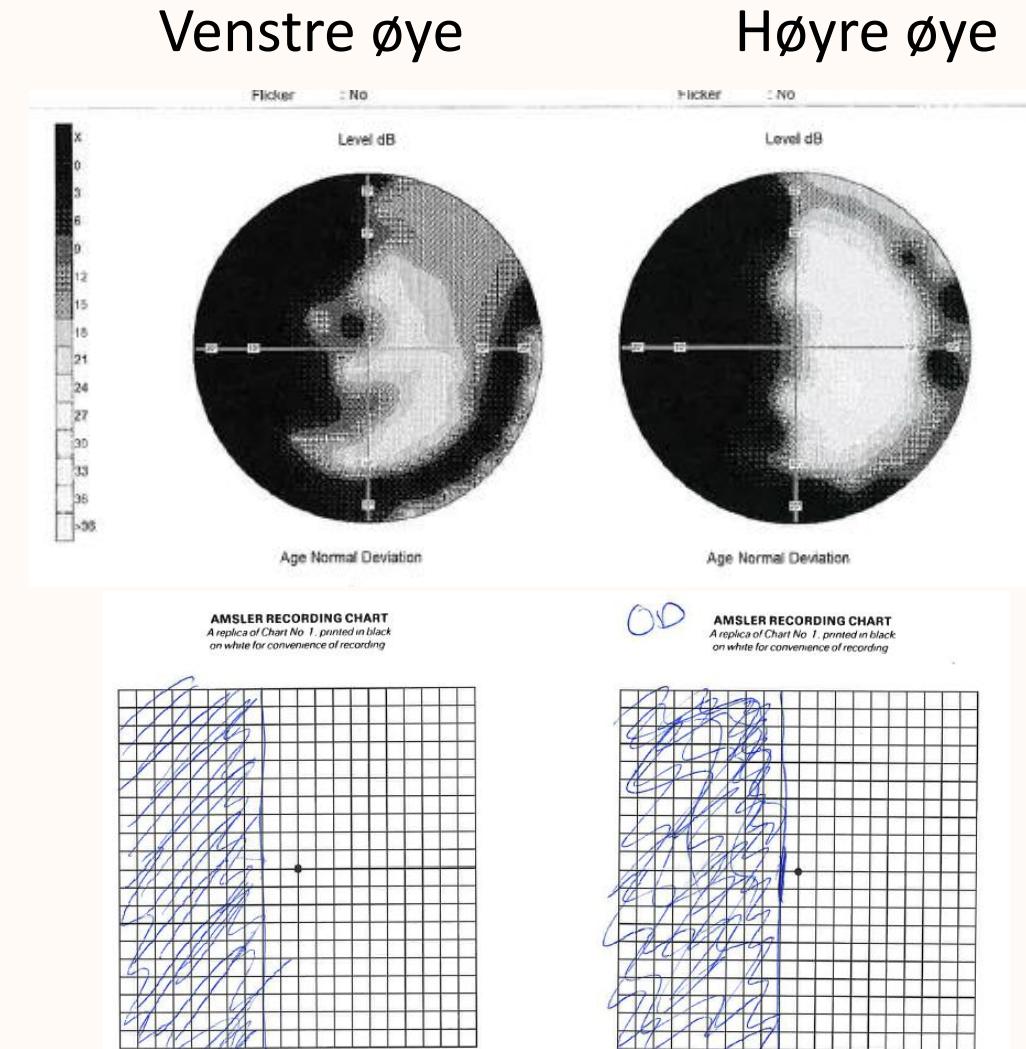
KROSS can identify visual problems



Visual rehabilitation

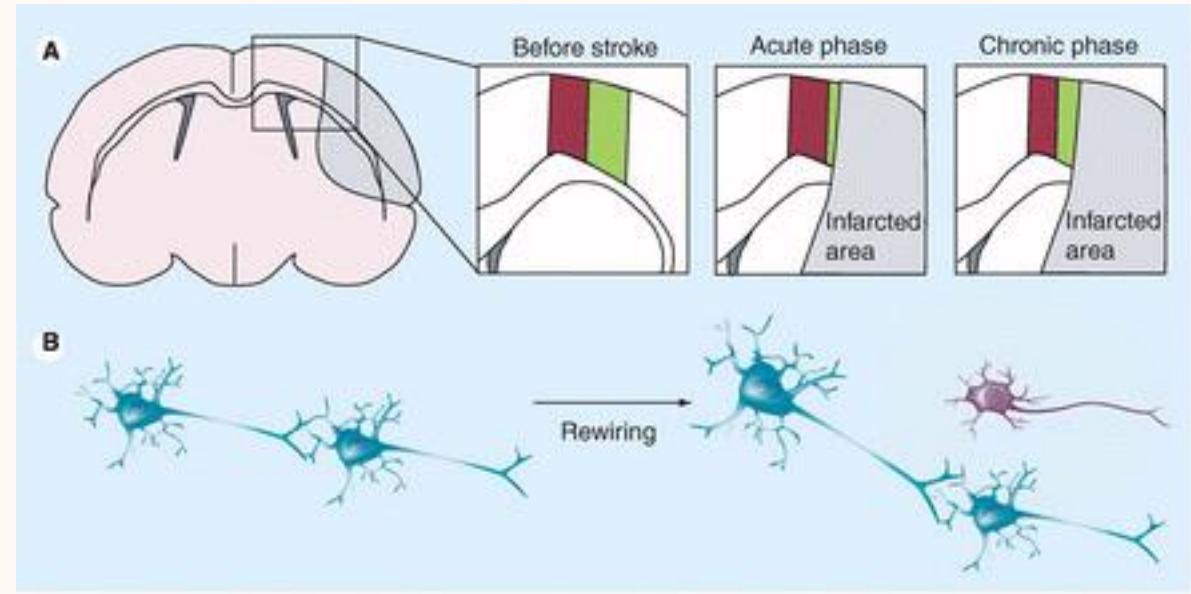
- Restitution
- Compensation
- Substitution
- Coping in a new situation

http://www.eyeresearch.ucl.ac.uk/es/es_hemianopia.php



Restitution

- Builds on the principles of the plasticity of the brain
- Eye movements
- Visual field
- Spontaneous restitution

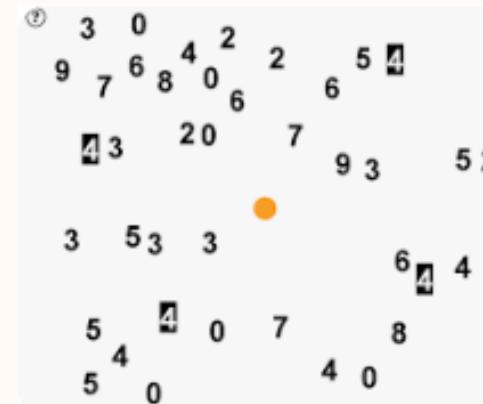


(Smedslund and Myrhaug 2017, Pollock, Hazelton et al. 2019, Taraldsen 2023)

Compensation

- Optimize the visual function
- Improve search strategies in small and large visual field
- Prisms

(Zihl 2011, Pollock, Hazelton et al. 2019)



Synsrehabilitering på Vikersund Bad
Rehabiliteringssenter

Torgeir Mathisen Siste nytta May 10, 2022 | 0



Substitution

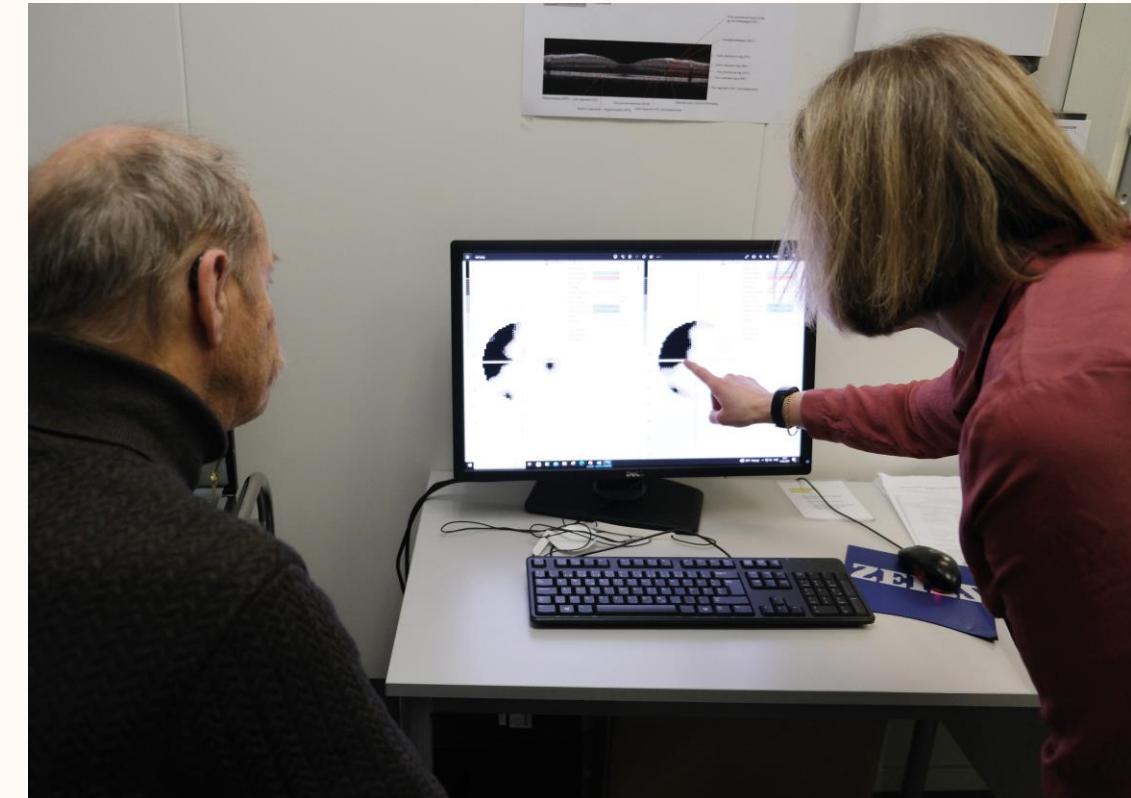
- Optics for visually impaired
- Magnifying
- Lighting

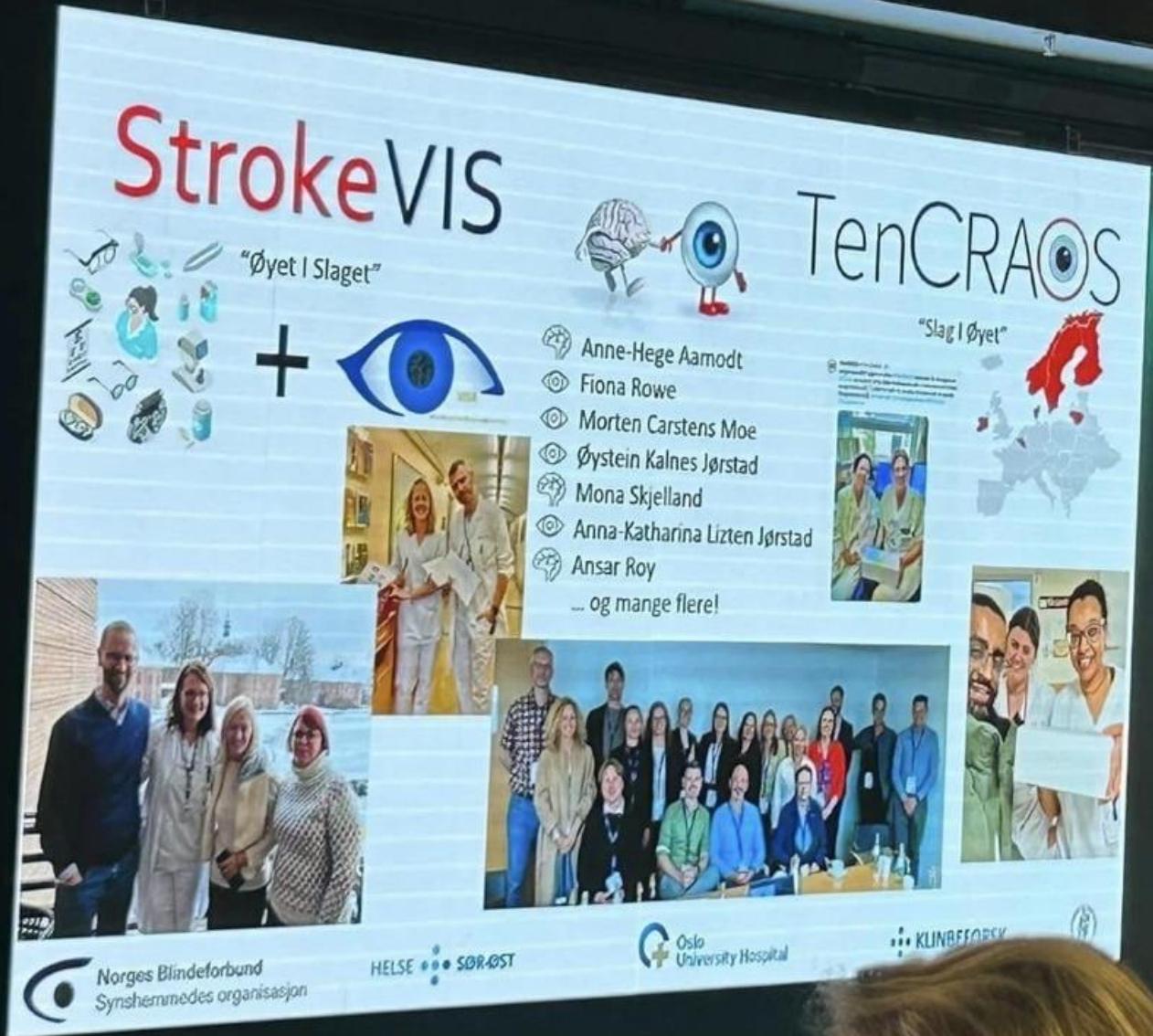


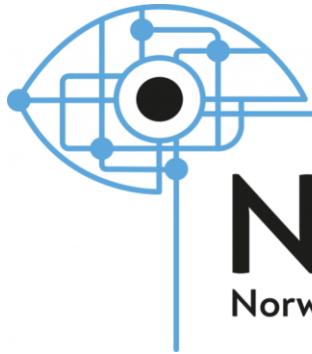
 ADAM

Coping with a new way of seeing

- Understanding the visual problem
 - Patient
 - Caregivers
 - Health care personell
- Consequenses of impaired vision
 - Promote activity and participation
 - Coping







NorVIS
Norwegian Vision in Stroke



LHL Hjerneslag og Afasi

FINNMARKSSYKEHUSET
FINNMÁRKKU BUOHCCIVIESSU



/nav//

NORGES
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UNIVERSITY
OF APPLIED
SCIENCES
UTRECHT

Linnéuniversitetet



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

NTNU

UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

USN
Universitetet
i Sørøst-Norge

Norges Blindeforbund
Synshemmedes organisasjon

Norsk forening
for slamer

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le Sykehus

ERGEN
etssjukehus

ELSE FØRDE

Lovisenberg Diakonale Sykehus

NASJONAL BEHANDLINGSTJENESTE
for helse og psykisk helse

etssykehus

HOSPITAL
SET I TRONDHEIM

IAAS SYKEHUS

SYKEHUSET I VESTFOLD

SØRLANDET SYKEHUS

unicare

VESTRE VIKEN

Vikersund Bad
REHABILITERINGSSENTER AS

Støttet av
Forskningsrådet

TRONDHEIM
KOMMUNE

Oslo

MOLDE KOM
MUNE

JOHANNES LÆRINGSSENTER

POSTFOLD
MUNE

på kornet