

Visual Inattention/Neglect (Strategies to Help Individuals)

Stroke or brain injury can affect a person's ability to see or attend to one-half of his visual field. Family and caregivers can help a person with visual problems.

Strategies to improve visual awareness during daily activities include:

1. Sit on patient's affected (L/R) side when talking, and ask friends/visitors to do so when visiting.
2. Encourage patient to attend to his/her affected (L/R) side with all activities.
3. Place the items patient needs on his/her affected (L/R) side, as well as on the opposite side during self-care, bathing, dressing, and eating (to increase environmental scanning).
4. Encourage the patient to scan the room:
 - You or the patient can point out various things around the room.
 - Have the patient search for numbers or letters posted in the room (for example, post large, hand-lettered sheets with "1 2 3..." or "A B C ...").
 - Request the patient to look to the affected (L/R) side every 10 minutes.
 - Place special pictures on the affected (L/R) side.