Visual Midline Shift Syndrome on Stroke Participants

Location: Waterloo/Kitchener

Number of participants: 20

Description: Typically, an individual will perceive their personal ‘middle’ as being directly in front of the tip of their nose. After an acquired brain injury such as a stroke, an individual may have difficulty using one side of their body, and sometimes an altered perception of their ‘middle’ point may occur. This is often referred to as a Visual Midline Shift Syndrome (VMSS). In this condition, the individual’s midline may be shifted to one side, up or down, so that when assessed, for example, they may indicate that their midline is in front of their right eye. A visual midline shift may result in a lean away from the affected side, disturbing posture, resulting in imbalance, and increasing the risk of a fall. We are studying people after stroke to determine how frequently VMSS occurs, what factors and symptoms are associated with it, and how it changes over time, compared to those who have not experienced a stroke.

Language: English only

Eligibility:

- Participants who have experienced their first and only stroke within the previous 2 years will be invited to participate.
- The presence of other eye diseases or wearing glasses does not exclude individuals from this study. However, they will not be able to participate in this study if they have the following conditions or if they are not able to provide consent themselves.
- The conditions that would exclude individuals are vertigo, vestibular dysfunction, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, cerebellar dysfunction, receptive aphasia, Meniere's disease, history of concussion/head injury, or some other neurological disorders.

Participant requirements:

This study is conducted in-person at the School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo and participants will have to come for study visit to the School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo. The results of this study will help in improving the visual rehabilitation of post-stroke patients. The study visit date and time can be booked at the participant's convenience. The study visit will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. They will be given $20.00/visit in appreciation for their time plus travel or parking costs. If they get tired, we will give breaks or stop the testing and re-schedule, if they are willing. Participants will be able to withdraw from the study at any time. No training or education is required for participants.

Institution: University of Waterloo

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