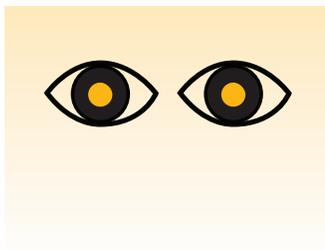


# Visual Assessment Protocol



This protocol is to be used if you are unsure whether or not your patient has the ability to see or to visually attend due to inconsistent performance on vision assessments. By analyzing the direction and frequency of ocular movements towards different stimuli, clinicians are better able to identify loss of vision and field cuts which may not be noted through clinical observation.

This protocol is to be completed when patient's eyes are open. If external stimuli are provided to elicit or maintain eye opening, the stimuli should be given consistently before all trials.

### You will need:

- A colored photo (preferably of something meaningful to the patient)
- A blank card of the same size



### Setup:

- Stand approximately 6 feet in front of the patient.
- Raise one or both hands with appropriate stimuli for each trial.
- Stimuli should be held around patient's ear level approximately 30-40 degrees to the left and/or right of patient's visual midline.

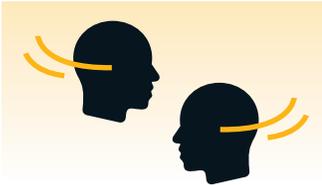
**Table 1: Sample Protocol Administration and Recording Sheet**

Trial	Stimuli to be Presented		Response Left or Right
	Left Field	Right Field	
1	Photo	—	
2	—	Photo	
3	Card	—	
4	—	Card	
5	Photo	Card	
6	Card	Photo	

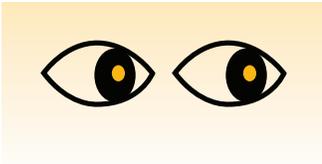
Six trials are completed to test all possible stimulus combinations. Order is randomized during data collection. Record the direction to which the patient looks first. "No response" is given if the patient does not shift his/her gaze within the 5 second response window.

(over)

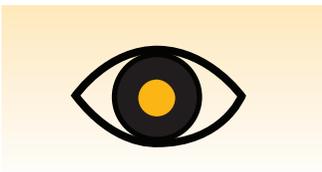
### Interpretation of Data (collect as much data as possible and analyze weekly):



- First, total the number of movements in each direction.
  - If the number of times the patient looks to the left and looks to the right are approximately the same, it is likely that the patient demonstrates normal vision or bilateral visual deficits.
  - If the number totals are unequal, it is likely that the patient has a gaze preference, asymmetric visual field, or visual attention deficit.



- Second, compare the unilateral card conditions to the unilateral photo conditions (e.g. compare number of eye movements when only the photo is shown to the number of eye movements when only the blank card is shown).
  - If the patient looks more often at the photo instead of the card, it is likely that the patient is able to discriminate between the two which demonstrates conscious visual perception.
  - If the patient has demonstrated an asymmetric visual field or visual attention deficit, compare the conditions in the preferred field where the salient stimulus is on the right to when the salient stimulus is on the left. If the patient looks at the photo more than the blank card, it is likely that he/she is able to discriminate between objects within his/her preferred visual field.
  - If concerned about the presence of a visual deficit in one eye, try patching of each eye and collecting data using the unilateral photo conditions.



- Third, compare the unilateral stimulus conditions to the bilateral stimulus conditions to determine visual extinction, a form of visual neglect.
  - The patient must have demonstrated evidence of functional vision in the visual field being assessed.
  - If the patient looks at the photo when shown in isolation, but prefers the card to the photo (photo in same position) when shown stimuli simultaneously, then the patient likely has visual extinction of the visual field where the photo is being held.