

Practical Considerations- Visual-Perceptual Disorders

KEY POINTS

The visual-perceptual pathway is extensive and a stroke at any point along the path will cause a visual-perceptual disorder.

Encourage stroke survivors with visual-perceptual disorders to scan to the affected side. Stand in the intact visual field to communicate.

An individual with unilateral spatial neglect does not recognize or respond to information on one side of space (most often the left). This may include neglect of their own body (personal space), environment within their reach (peri-personal space), and/or environment beyond their reach (extra-personal space).

If a stroke survivor has peri-personal or extra-personal neglect, put important objects on the unaffected side (often the right side). This is particularly important if you will not be present to provide cueing.

For a stroke survivor with personal neglect, encourage them to use and care for the affected arm. It may help to place the arm on the unaffected side of the body.