

# BIOS BRITISH AND IRISH ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

# Web based therapy for visual field loss and visual neglect



Due to developments in technology many of us have access in our everyday lives to devices that allow internet connection. There are **apps** and other **web based** activities available which are designed for **visual field loss therapy** and visual neglect following **stroke**. There are also Apps for information only purposes for you and your family/carers.

This leaflet lists **apps** and **websites** you may find helpful.

### Rehabilitative/ Therapy Based Applications and Websites

The aim of these activities is to improve your scanning and awareness of the blind area to allow you to compensate better for the visual field loss in your everyday activities.

## **Applications for Tablets**



Visual Attention Therappy (Available for IPAD only. Free version available and extended version at a cost): This is useful for people with visual neglect and visual field loss. It helps to improve your scanning ability to the affected side by using searching puzzles.



**Constant Therapy (Available on IPAD and android tablets. Free trial period available however subscription required when free trial ends):** A similar application to Visual attention Therappy, Constant Therapy also offers tasks to improve memory, speech, cognition and language.



**Vision Tap (Available for IPAD and PC. Free version available):** This app contains a collection of puzzles to aid people with visual neglect and visual field loss. The puzzles within this app have both moving and static targets helping to improve scanning ability.



**DREX (Available on IPAD and android tablets for free):** DREX is the Durham Reading and Exploration training. Through regular training and assessment this free app teaches how to compensate for visual field loss.



**Eye Exerciser 3.0 (Available on IPAD and android tablets. Free version available and an extended version at a cost):** Eye Exerciser 3.0 uses targets on the screen to help patient's improvement the accuracy of their eye movements.



**Eye Move Training (IPAD only. Free version):** A similar but more basic version of the Eye Exerciser. A good introduction to this type of app.



Vision Scan (IPAD only. Free "Lite" Version and an extended version at a cost): Within this app there is a programme to aid Eye Movement Exercise. The concept of this programme is the same as the previous two apps discussed

**Games:** A variety of games are available that will help patients scanning ability while also being very entertaining.



#### Websites for therapy

- Read Right (www.readright.ucl.ac.uk) provides a free therapy which can help to improve reading speeds in patients with right homonymous hemianopia (alexia)
- Eye Search (www.eyesearch.ucl.ac.uk) a free online eye therapy for patients with hemianopia or visual neglect. Although it will not improve your visual field loss it will improve how you move your eyes to look at the world around you.

### **Informative Applications**

There are a number of apps that provide a variety of information for you and your family/carer.



Seeing AI (All Apple and Android Platforms. Free): Uses the camera within a device to give feedback to the user. The app can read text a loud to the user as well as identify and describe a scene, object or person.



**Read Clear (Android Tablet):** This app allows the user to adjust the text layout of news articles and books. It is possible to change text size, the number of words on a line and the number of lines on a page so that the text is as the user wants it. It can also read the text a loud to the user.



**VisionSim (IPAD only. Free):** This application has been designed to allow family members and carers to experience what it is like to view the world you see with different eye conditions.



**Stroke (IPAD only. Free):** This has been developed by the Royal College of Physicians. It has lots of information for stroke survivors.



**Stroke Patient (Android only. Free):** This application helps to explain strokes, available treatments and the hospital care process.



The Stroke App USA (IPAD and Android. Free): This application provides a large amount of information, advice, videos, exercises and stroke survivor stories.

Your **Orthoptist** will be able to advise you further on other techniques which may help you **compensate** for your **vision loss**.



This leaflet was made by the Stroke and Neurological Rehabilitation Clinical Advisory Group steering committee in October 2018.

See www.orthoptics.org.uk for more information