

STUDY OF VISUAL REHABILITATION TECHNIQUES IN CHH: PRESS-ON PRISMS, ADJACENT PALOMAR PRISMS AND LATERAL-NASAL VISOR MIRRORS

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BACKGROUND: Complete homonymous hemianopsia (CHH) creates an important visual defect. These patients can improve their quality of life (spatial orientation, deambulation, reading) with the reconstruction of the image of the lost visual field with a variety of techniques (Palomar adjacent prisms, press-on prisms and lateral-nasal visor mirrors).

PURPOSES: To analyse clinical cases of treated patients. To evaluate their quality of life based on the efficacy of the techniques employed. To create awareness of our techniques and clinical-adaptation procedures.

METHODS: 76 clinical cases of patients with CHH were collected (15 right, 61 left), corresponding to 61 males and 15 females. The average age was 57.8. Visual rehabilitation techniques employed as well as the adaptation time and the results obtained from the treatment were studied. Furthermore, the degree of improvement in deambulation, spatial orientation and ability to walk unaided, was measured using a quality of life questionnaire designed specifically for this study.

RESULTS: The results obtained were promising with more than 85.50% of patients successfully adapting to short and long sighted vision.

CONCLUSIONS: The adaptation techniques significantly contribute to the rapid improvement in the quality of life of the patients. The binocular adaptation and the central position of the prisms are very important. Palomar's questionnaire is a useful and simple tool to quantify the improvements achieved in quality of life.