

# Neuroplasticity in homonymous hemianopia: structural brain changes underlying residual and compensatory perceptual behaviour

Published: 14-06-2016

Last updated: 15-05-2024

Our objective is to get insight into whether and how the visual system reorganises after acquiring HH. Visual processing will be investigated and cortical reorganisation at a structural level will be examined. For this purpose, we will assess...

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Ethical review</b>        | Approved WMO               |
| <b>Status</b>                | Recruitment stopped        |
| <b>Health condition type</b> | Structural brain disorders |
| <b>Study type</b>            | Observational non invasive |

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON47305

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Neuroplasticity in homonymous hemianopia

### Condition

- Structural brain disorders

### Synonym

"one sided visual field loss", homonymous hemianopia

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Compensatory perceptual behaviour, Homonymous hemianopia, Neuroimaging, Neuroplasticity

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Our main primary outcome parameters are:

- \* Ophthalmic functioning/condition (assessed by ophthalmic examination)
- \* Contrast values of grey and white matter volumes
- \* Water diffusion in brain tissue expressed in fractional anisotropy (FA),
- \* Retinal nerve fibre layer thickness

### Secondary outcome

Our secondary study parameters, derived from our primary study parameters, are:

- \* Visual Field maps
- \* Cortical thickness maps
- \* Course of white matter tracts
- \* Retinal nerve fibre degeneration
- \* Myelin content

## Study description

### Background summary

Our present knowledge of the adaptive capacity of the brain following homonymous hemianopia (HH), a visual field defect due to pathology along the visual system, is incomplete and largely qualitative in nature. Most studies on HH have focussed on the behavioural and psychophysical aspects of the condition, whilst quantitative research on cortical plasticity following the

condition is lacking. In particular, we have very limited understanding of how changes in visual processing are reflected in sustained structural cortical changes. Therefore, we aim to study a group of (post-chiasmatic brain injured) participants with HH to quantitatively assess the cortical reorganisation in this population. We hypothesise that changes in visual in HH are reflected in structural changes in the visual system (i.e. cortical thickness and white matter tracts), and changes in structural connectivity maps.

### **Study objective**

Our objective is to get insight into whether and how the visual system reorganises after acquiring HH. Visual processing will be investigated and cortical reorganisation at a structural level will be examined. For this purpose, we will assess cortical plasticity by MRI. In this way, we will investigate the impact of homonymous visual field defects on perceptual processing and correlate it to structural cortical plasticity.

### **Study design**

The study will be an observational study; a cross-sectional case-control design with participants with HH and controls matched for age and gender. The study consists of three parts: 1) a functional questionnaire (only patients), 2) physiological measurements, and 3) an MRI experiment.

### **Study burden and risks**

There are no risks associated with this study. Participants will be exposed to standard clinical tests and a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) experiment with a magnetic field of 3 Tesla and fast fluctuating magnetic gradients and radio-frequency fields. These field strengths are common in MRI research. Up till now no side effects have been reported and hemianopia has been studied with MRI before without any side effects. In rare cases an abdominal peripheral nerve could possibly be stimulated because of the fluctuating magnetic fields. This results in a tickling, but harmless, feeling.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen

Hanzeplein 1  
Groningen 9700 RB  
NL

### **Scientific**

Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen

Hanzeplein 1  
Groningen 9700 RB  
NL

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Participants with hemianopia:

- have signed written consent
  - age older than 18
  - homonymous hemianopia due to post chiasmic brain injury
- stable ophthalmologic conditions; Controls:
- have signed written consent
  - age older than 18
  - subjectively healthy

### Exclusion criteria

Participants with hemianopia:

- clinical eye conditions
- auditory impairments; Controls:
- visual impairments
- auditory impairments

## Study design

### Design

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Study type:         | Observational non invasive      |
| Intervention model: | Other                           |
| Allocation:         | Non-randomized controlled trial |
| Masking:            | Open (masking not used)         |
| Control:            | Active                          |
| Primary purpose:    | Basic science                   |

### Recruitment

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| NL                        |                     |
| Recruitment status:       | Recruitment stopped |
| Start date (anticipated): | 22-05-2018          |
| Enrollment:               | 40                  |
| Type:                     | Actual              |

## Ethics review

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Approved WMO       |   |
| Date:              | 14-06-2016  |
| Application type:  | First submission  |
| Review commission: | METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen) |
| Approved WMO       |   |
| Date:              | 08-02-2019  |
| Application type:  | Amendment   |
| Review commission: | METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen) |

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

**Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register**

ID: 21100  
Source: Nationaal Trial Register  
Title:

**In other registers**

| Register | ID             |
|----------|----------------|
| Other    | 5752           |
| CCMO     | NL55973.042.15 |
| OMON     | NL-OMON21100   |