

E-Pearl of the Week

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Psychogenic visual field loss

Bedside maneuvers for diagnosing psychogenically constricted visual fields include testing saccades with a stimulus in the reportedly absent area of the field to see if the patient attends to an object in an area where blindness is reported, or mapping the size of the field from two distances. In organically constricted fields the absolute size of the intact field will increase with distance from the target, while psychogenic fields will stay the same size. Managing patients with psychogenic visual field loss is similar to that of other non-organic neurologic complaints and includes reassurance and psychiatric evaluation as appropriate.

Reference

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Miller NR. Neuro-ophthalmologic manifestations of psychogenic disease. *Seminars in neurology* 2006; 26:310-20.