

Charles Bonnet syndrome

What is Charles Bonnet syndrome?

This syndrome is characterised by the presence of complex visual hallucinations seen by people who are vision impaired.

The hallucinations can involve detailed images of people, buildings or simple patterns of straight lines. This experience can be pleasant but can sometimes cause distress.

People who have Charles Bonnet syndrome are aware that these images are not real but may need reassurance that it is not related to mental ill health or dementia.

Charles Bonnet syndrome is an under-recognised condition and can affect people with significant vision impairment of all ages. However, it is more common in those who lose their sight later in life.

The condition often appears after a period of worsening sight and is common in people with age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

Visual hallucinations may continue for up to 18 months before they subside but it is a highly variable condition.

Can Charles Bonnet syndrome be treated?

Although there is no cure or treatment for Charles Bonnet syndrome, simply knowing the hallucinations are not a result of mental illness can help people manage the condition.

For further information and assistance regarding Charles Bonnet syndrome, go to the CBS Foundation website www.charlesbonnetsyndrome.org

How can Vision Australia help?

Vision Australia provides support and services to people of all ages and stages of life who are blind or have vision loss.

We work with people to achieve what's important to them such as studying, finding or retaining employment, leading an active social life or continuing to do the things they love.

With the support of our professional teams, people who are blind or have low vision can develop their skills and make use of technology and equipment that will enable them to live independently.

Contact Vision Australia

Call 1300 84 74 66
Email info@visionaustralia.org
Website visionaustralia.org
Locations VIC | ACT | NSW | QLD | WA