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Useful clinical pearls for assessing and managing visual impairment in brain injury patients

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Background/Aim: Vision impairments are often associated with brain injuries and may be combined with other multiple impairments, but evaluating these patients in order to identify the presence of vision-related problems can be challenging. Sometimes the deficits are difficult to identify because they are subtle; sometimes they are difficult to assess because the patient may be non-verbal or unable to respond to conventional testing methods.

Content: This presentation will address clinical pearls and useful approaches for evaluating and managing children or adults who have suffered vision loss or impairment due to brain injury and may have other impairments complicating the examination process as well.

Implications: The goal of this presentation is to share the development of useful approaches and techniques gained from over 30 years of experience in the clinical and rehabilitative care of brain injury patients of all ages in both hospital-based and private-practice settings.

Biography

Carolyn Carman is a Clinical Professor and Director of the Center for Sight Enhancement at the University of Houston College of Optometry in Houston, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida and of the Southern College of Optometry where she earned her Doctor of Optometry degree. She completed a residency in ocular pathology and low vision rehabilitation at the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Carman is a Board Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry and a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. She is a member of the American Optometric Association where she has participated on or chaired several national committees including the Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Committee and Ethics and Values Committee. She was twice appointed by the Texas Governor to the Texas Optometry Board and served as Chair. Dr. Carman has also been a member of an independent review board reviewing pharmaceutical research studies and as an investigator in clinical studies. She has lectured extensively, nationally and internationally, on low vision rehabilitation and brain injury and formerly produced a syndicated radio program geared toward persons with low vision and reading disabilities.

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