

# Right-Side Neglect: What is known about it and its effects?

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## Abstract

Right-side neglect is a result of a stroke in the left portion of the brain, however, there is limited knowledge of this consequence in comparison to a stroke in the right side of the brain resulting in left-side neglect. As a result of limited data on right-side neglect – misdiagnoses have occurred. The most common symptom of right-side neglect revolves around an individual's daily operations that include naming (identifying objects) and reading. This impairment can impact an individual's ability to be independent. The purpose of this presentation will be to pinpoint focal areas that will result in RSN, symptoms, and describe how these symptoms will affect daily life.

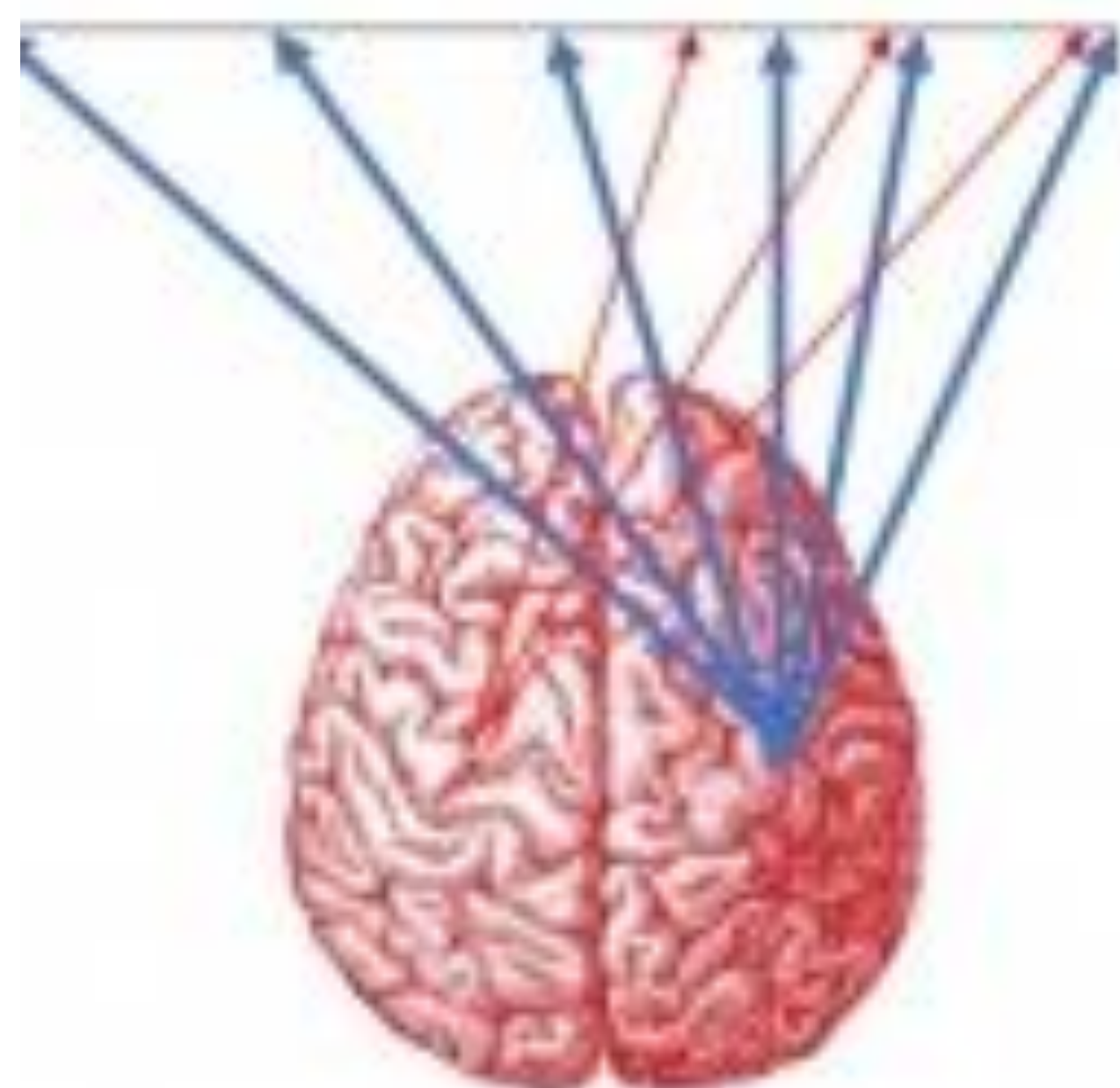
### Learner Outcomes:

At the culmination of this session, participants will be able to...

- Differentiate between RSN and LSN
- Identify symptoms of RSN and its affects in daily life
- Assess different treatment options post diagnosis

## Introduction

It is important to note that left or right-side neglect is a consequence of a few possibilities: neurodegenerative disease, neoplasia, trauma and most commonly a stroke. It is not a result of poor eyesight. An example of contralateral visuospatial fields is presented below.



(NeuroRehab, 2020)

## Right-side neglect

- Right-side neglect and left-side neglect will have interchangeable terms such as contralateral neglect, hemispacial neglect, visuospatial neglect, spatial neglect, or hemineglect. (Physiopedia, n.d.)
- Approximately 43.5% of stroke patients are diagnosed with RSN. This number is significantly less than patients diagnosed with LSN. (Physiopedia, n.d.)
- Approximately 0-75% of patients with left hemisphere stroke will have RSN. (Physiopedia, n.d.)

RSN and LSN will present with similar symptoms such as:

1. Failing to recognize the contralateral space that is affected. Not only could the visual stimuli be missing but also auditorily or through the sensation of touch.
2. Failing to recognize one's own body parts.

Specific symptoms to left hemisphere damage include:

- Poor balance
- Poor attention to detail
- Anomia
- Aphasia
- Impaired ability to see the right visual field of each eye
- Impaired ability to do math or to organize, reason, and analyze items
- Behavioral changes like depression
- Impaired ability to read, write, and learn new information
- Memory problems

**When comparing damage from the left versus right hemisphere post-stroke, there was no true indication that there was a difference between the two hemispheres with cognition, communication, motor strength, and mobility. (Antonio et al, 2017).**

## Assessing if Neglect is Present and Tips

If family members and loved ones start noticing that a person who had just experienced a stroke is neglecting one side versus another, these tips may be of use. Apps such as Tactus Therapy include activities that have cancellation tasks that also enhance an individual's reading skills, concentration, memory, attention to detail and the increase of speech processing. Other helpful activities include mealtime activities, visual search tasks or navigation tasks. Tests include line bisection, single letter cancellation, and the behavior inattention tests.

### Tips:

**All the activities presented above require scanning of the individual's environment.**

- **Place tools/items needed on the side of neglect so that visual scanning is encouraged.**
- **Use specific cues such as "Look to your left/right."**
- **Patience**

## Conclusion

Both left and right-side neglect affect a person's day-to-day life; however, it is important to identify that neglect is present so that the individual and their family can create smart and safe solutions to make the quality of life just as great as before the brain injury.

## Acknowledgements

