



# Homonymous Hemianopia

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This material will help you understand homonymous hemianopia and how it is treated.

## **What is homonymous hemianopia?**

Homonymous hemianopia (HH) is a condition in which you cannot see objects on either the right or left side. HH may make it difficult for you to read and see things on one side. You may notice that you bump into things on only one side or accidentally leave food on one side of a plate. HH is caused by an injury in the area of the brain that collects all of the visual information from either the left or right side. An injury on the left side of the brain can cause visual loss on the right side and vice versa. If you think you might have HH, you should stop driving immediately until you are evaluated by an eye care provider.

## **What causes homonymous hemianopia?**

Any disorder that affects the brain can cause HH. The most common cause of HH is stroke. Trauma, inflammation, seizures, migraine headaches, or tumors can also cause the condition.

## **How is homonymous hemianopia diagnosed?**

Your eye doctor can diagnose HH with a complete eye exam. During the exam, your doctor tests your visual field. Your doctor may also

have you do an MRI scan to find the location and cause of your brain injury.

### **How is homonymous hemianopia treated?**

Treatment for HH involves learning new ways to live with the symptoms. For example, putting a ruler under a line of words may make reading easier. Your doctor may suggest using prisms or mirrors on glasses. However, some people find these difficult to get used to.

### **Will I recover?**

Recovery for HH depends on the severity and cause of symptoms. Unfortunately, many people do not recover a normal visual field, but they do learn how to search in the area.

### **Will I be able to drive?**

It may be dangerous to drive with HH. Because HH limits your visual field, you may not be able to see cars on the side. In most states, people with severe HH are not legally allowed to drive. Talk to your doctor about whether it is safe for you to drive.

**For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website listed.**



[http://www.nanosweb.org/files/public/Homonymous\\_hemianopia\\_english\\_new.pdf](http://www.nanosweb.org/files/public/Homonymous_hemianopia_english_new.pdf)

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