Vision After Stroke
What It Means for Your Brain Health



There are around **800,000 stroke survivors** each year in the U.S.

Many stroke survivors suffer vision impairment

- vision field loss
- double vision
- eye movement issues and cranial nerve dysfunction

New Studies

Researchers studied vision in stroke survivors to see if **stroke-related vision impairment increases the risk of dementia** or the speed of its onset.

Key Findings

Stroke-related vision impairment was linked to **greater risk** of developing dementia.

- Vision field loss was associated with **greater risk of dementia.**
- Stroke-related vision impairment **did not** predict how quickly dementia developed.
- More severe strokes influenced both **vision problems** and **cognitive decline.**

Provider Tasks

- **Check vision after a stroke.**
- **Use vision-friendly memory tests.**
- **Provide personalized care** based on vision issues.
- **Keep studying** vision, stroke, and brain health.

People Tasks

- **Get regular vision checks** (especially in the case of stroke).
- **Prevent stroke** (i.e., manage high blood pressure and diabetes, avoid smoking)

Learn about stroke

NIH National Institute on Aging

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Hreha, K., Ashner, M. C., Peskoe, S., Downer, B., Reistetter, T., Palta, P., Wruck, L., Gottesman, R. F., Windham, B. G., & Whitson, H. E. (2026). Prevalence of pre-stroke and stroke-related vision impairments and their association with mild cognitive impairment and dementia. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease: JAD, 110(1_suppl), S38–S49. https://bit.ly/45MIF6j

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