

TCS/24/40 - Computer-Based Eye Movement Training For Stroke-Related Visual Field Loss: A Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial (CRYSTAL)

Vision is our most important sense. One-fifth of those who have a stroke will experience vision problems. They become blind to one half of space in both eyes; the person cannot see anything to the right (or left) of what their nose is pointing at. This affects their safety, ability to do valued tasks, and wellbeing.

We do not know what the best rehabilitation for this is. One method is computer-based vision training (e.g. VISIOcoach), which trains users to make better eye movements towards their blind side, to compensate for their visual loss.

Our study will test VISIOcoach with 60 stroke survivors. Half (chosen at random) will use VISIOcoach at home, the other half will receive usual care. After 6 weeks we will measure their vision, ability to do everyday tasks, and mental wellbeing. Five stroke survivors will be involved in the design and conduct of the study.

Our study is a “test-run” for a larger trial, which will establish conclusively if VISIOcoach helps stroke survivors with visual problems. The information we gather will help us plan and secure funding for this larger study, which will help us to improve vision rehabilitation for stroke survivors.