

**THE EFFECT OF VISUAL SCANNING EXERCISES
INTEGRATED INTO TASK-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES ON THE
FUNCTIONAL ABILITY IN PATIENTS WITH VISUAL
PERCEPTUAL DISORDERS POST STROKE**

By

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STATEMENT

I Andoret van Wyk, declare that the dissertation which I hereby submit for the degree M PhysT at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not been previously submitted by me for a degree at another tertiary institution.

Where secondary material has been used, this has been carefully acknowledged and referenced in accordance with the university requirements. I am aware of university policies and implications regarding plagiarism.

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Date



LANGUAGE EDITORS LETTER

wordsm,ths
english consultancy

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Andoret van Wyk's MPHYST dissertation has been proofread by me. Changes were made to a hard-copy version of the dissertation and the student herself applied the changes to the version of the dissertation intended for submission to the University of Pretoria.

Barbara English

7 May 2012

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank Dr Eksteen for her dedication and continued support throughout the study. I have learned so much during the whole process and am incredibly thankful for her dedication and sharing of her knowledge.

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ABSTRACT

Stroke is the first cause of disability and second most frequent cause of mortality after ischemic heart disease in adults worldwide. The influence of visual system impairment on the patient's functional ability and quality of life are still largely neglected in neurological rehabilitation. Therapists are seldom concerned with the visual status and ability of their patients. Members of the rehabilitation team rarely assess, monitor or treat impairment of visual efficiency processes and visual information processing dysfunction that may be observed in patients after a stroke. In the absence of specific intervention visual deficits stabilise and become permanent due to poor or almost absent spontaneous recovery of the visual system in stroke patients.

A matched-pair randomised controlled trial was conducted. Twenty-four (24) participants were screened based on their functional activity level as measured on the Stroke Activity Scale (SAS). When a participant's SAS score matched a previously allocated participant's score, that particular participant was placed in the opposite group from the existing matched participant. If the newly assessed participant's SAS did not match another participant's SAS, the participant was randomly allocated to either the experimental or the control group. The process was repeated until (24) patients had been allocated into two groups consisting of twelve (12) participants per group as they were admitted to Tshwane Rehabilitation Centre (TRC).

Group 1 (Experimental Group) received saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities and Group 2 (Control Group) received task-specific activities for four (4) consecutive weeks. Participants'

functional progress on body impairment and functional activity level were assessed and documented on a weekly basis during the intervention period of four (4) weeks. In order to determine whether the integration of visual scanning through saccadic eye movement training had a permanent or long-term effect on the participants' functional ability and quality of life after rehabilitation had been terminated, functional progress on body impairment-, functional activity and participation levels as well as their perceived quality of life were assessed and documented eight (8), twelve (12), sixteen (16) and twenty (20) weeks after admission to the rehabilitation facility. A large number of participants were lost to follow-up following discharge from the TRC after the intervention period of four (4) weeks. As result of the small sample group at week eight (8), week twelve (12), week sixteen (16) and week twenty (20), these results were not discussed.

Results of the matched-pair randomised controlled trial indicated that the effect of saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises integrated with task specific activities as an intervention for participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke resulted in significant improvement in impairment level. This improvement related to oculomotor visual performance, visual attention, depression as well as results on functional activity level with regard to the ability to independently complete ADL after four (4) weeks of rehabilitation.

It may therefore be concluded that saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities as an intervention tend to

improve functional ability in participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	i
STATEMENT	ii
LANGUAGE EDITOR'S LETTER	iii
EXPRESSION OF THANKS	iv
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
Chapter 1: Introduction and problem identification	1
1.1. Introduction	1
1.2. Limitations in the literature	4
1.3. Practical experience of the researcher	7
1.4. Problem statement	8
1.5. Significance of the research	9
1.6. Research questions	10
1.7. Aims of the study	11
1.8. Objectives of the study	12
1.9. Ethical approval	13
1.10. Course of the study	13
Chapter 2: Literature review	15
2.1. Introduction	15
2.2. Literature search strategy	17
2.2.1. Assessment of the quality of selected literature	19

2.3.	Functional activity and the visual system post-stroke	19
2.4.	Visual system, visual perception and cognition	28
	2.4.1. Perceptual processing	29
	2.4.2. Cognitive functioning	30
2.5.	Anxiety and depression	36
2.6.	Assessment of the effects of treatment on impairment, activity, and participation levels	37
2.7.	Model of disablement used in this study	38
	2.7.1. Assessment of the effects of treatment on oculomotor function	38
	2.7.2. Assessment of the effects of treatment on functional ability	43
	2.7.3. Assessment of the effects of treatment on perceptual processing and cognitive function	48
	2.7.4. Assessment of the effects of treatment on quality of life	53
	2.7.5. Assessment of the effects of treatment on anxiety and depression	55
	2.8. Selection criteria	57
	2.9. Summary	58
Chapter 3: Study design and methodology		62
3.1.	Introduction	62
3.2.	Ethical approval	62
3.3.	Research funding	62
3.4.	Research setting	62
3.5.	Study design	63
3.6.	Study population	63
3.7.	Sample group	64
	3.7.1. Inclusion criteria	64
	3.7.2. Exclusion criteria	65

3.7.3. Sample size	66
3.7.4. Matching of the sample group	67
3.8. Research process	68
3.8.1. Intervention	69
3.8.2. The intervention participants in Group 1 and Group 2 received	69
3.9. Control of bias in the research process	76
3.10. Reliability and validity of the clinical trial	78
3.11. Assessment instruments	78
3.11.1. Body impairment level	79
3.11.2. Functional activity level	80
3.11.3. Participation level	81
3.11.4. Summary of assessments completed during the trial	82
3.12. Retention of participants until study completion, attempting to minimise subjects lost to follow-up	83
3.13. Pilot study	84
3.14. Data analysis	85
3.15. Summary	86
Chapter 4: Results of the study	88
4.1. Introduction	88
4.2. Demographical data of the participants in the clinical trial	89
4.2.1. Matching based on functional activity level	92
4.3. Results from outcome measures over the four-week intervention period	92
4.3.1. Results of the assessment of participants' oculomotor function	92
4.3.1.1. The King-Devick Test ©	92
4.3.2. Results of the assessment of participants' functional ability	97
4.3.2.1. The Stroke Activity Scale	97

4.3.2.2. The Barthel Index	99
4.3.2.3. The Timed Up and Go Test	101
4.3.3. Results of the assessment of participants' perceptual processing and cognitive function	102
4.3.3.1. The Star Cancellation Test	102
4.3.3.2. The Mini-Mental State Examination	105
4.3.4. Results of the assessment of participants' level of anxiety and depression	108
4.3.4.1. The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale	108
4.4. Results gathered at week eight (8), week twelve (12), week sixteen (16) and week twenty (20) of participants in Group 1 and Group 2	110
4.5. Conclusion	111
Chapter 5: Discussion and conclusion	113
5.1. Introduction	113
5.2. Comparison between the demographical data of the participants in Group 1 and Group 2	113
5.3. The effect of the intervention(s) on body impairment level, functional activity and participation levels	114
5.3.1. The effect of visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities received by participants from Group 1 versus participants from Group 2 that received task-specific activities alone on participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke's oculomotor function	114
5.3.2. The effect of visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities received by participants from	

Group 1 versus participants from Group 2 that received task-specific activities alone on participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke's functional ability	116
5.3.3. The effect of visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities received by participants from Group 1 versus participants from Group 2 that received task-specific activities alone on participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke's perceptual processing and cognitive functioning	118
5.3.4. The effect of visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities received by participants from Group 1 versus participants from Group 2 that received task-specific activities alone on participants that presented with unilateral spatial inattention, visual-spatial disorders and visual-constructive disorders post-stroke's anxiety and depression	122
5.4. Participation level	125
5.5. Discussion on the aims of the study	126
5.6. Limitations of the study	127
5.7. Suggestions for future research	131
5.8. Conclusion	132
BIBLIOGRAPHY	135
ADDENDUMS	158
ADDENDUM 1: Ethical approval by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria (S33/2009)	158

ADDENDUM 2:	Permission granted by the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Tshwane Rehabilitation Centre.	160
ADDENDUM 3:	The Mini-Mental State Examination	162
ADDENDUM 4a:	Informed consent to participate in the study	163
ADDENDUM 4b:	Participant characteristics	167
ADDENDUM 5:	The King-Devick Test ©	169
ADDENDUM 6:	The Barthel Index	174
ADDENDUM 7:	The Timed Up and Go Test	176
ADDENDUM 8:	The Star Cancellation Test	177
ADDENDUM 9:	The Stroke Impact Scale Version 3.0	179
ADDENDUM 10:	The walking ability questionnaire	188
ADDENDUM 11:	The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale	191
ADDENDUM 12:	The Stroke Activity Scale	194
ADDENDUM 13:	HART-chart	203
ADDENDUM 14:	Results gathered at week eight (8), week twelve (12), week sixteen (16) and week twenty (20) of participants in Group 1 and Group 2	204

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 2.1: Visual system impairments post-stroke	20
TABLE 2.2: Results of previous studies that assessed the effect of re-training of the visual system on patients' functional ability post-stroke	26
TABLE 2.3: Results of studies that assessed the effect of re-training of the visual system on patients' perceptual processing and cognitive function post-stroke	32
TABLE 2.4: The use of the King-Devick Test © to assess the effects and the direct relationship between saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises on patients' oculomotor function (underlying impairment), functional activity and participation levels	39
TABLE 2.5: Interpretation of the King-Devick Test © – the King-Devick Subtest 1, Subtest 2 and Subtest 3	42
TABLE 2.6: The use of the Barthel Index and Timed Up and Go Test to assess the effects and the direct relationship between saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises on patients' functional ability functional activity- and participation levels	44
TABLE 2.7: Interpretation of the Barthel Index	45
TABLE 2.8: Interpretation of the Timed Up and Go Test	46
TABLE 2.9: Interpretation of TUG and risk of falls	47
TABLE 2.10: Interpretation of walking speed and community ambulation	47
TABLE 2.11: The use of the Star Cancellation Test and Mini-Mental State Examination to assess the effects and the direct relationship between saccadic eye movement training with visual scanning exercises on patients' perceptual processing and cognitive functioning (underlying impairment), functional activity and participation levels	48

TABLE 2.12: Interpretation of the presence of unilateral spatial neglect	51
TABLE 2.13: Interpretation of the level of cognitive impairment	52
TABLE 2.14: Interpretation of the anxiety and depression subscales of the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale	56
TABLE 3.1: The flow of each therapy session of participants from Group 1	70
TABLE 3.2: Guide of the principles of visual scanning exercises integrated with task-specific activities and the principles of progression of these exercises	71
TABLE 3.3: Summary of assessments completed during the trial	82
TABLE 4.1: The demographical data of participants from Group 1 and Group 2	90
TABLE 4.2: Results of the time taken to complete the King-Devick Test © over the four-week intervention period for Group 1 and Group 2	93
TABLE 4.3: The average number of errors made during the completion of the King-Devick Test © over the four-week intervention period	95
TABLE 4.4: Results of the Stroke Activity Scale of participants from Group 1 and Group 2 over the four-week intervention period	97
TABLE 4.5: Results of the Barthel Index of participants from Group 1 and Group 2 over the four-week intervention period	99
TABLE 4.6: Results of the TUG of participants in Group 1 and Group 2 over the four-week intervention period	101
TABLE 4.7: Results of the number of stars “cancelled” during the completion of the Star Cancellation Test over the four-week intervention period	102
TABLE 4.8: Results of the time taken to complete the Star Cancellation Test over the four-week intervention period	104
TABLE 4.9: Results of MMSE over the four-week intervention period of Group 1 and Group 2	106

TABLE 4.10: MMSE scores at baseline level compared to a reference group based on age and educational level of Group 1 and Group 2 at baseline and week four (4)	107
TABLE 4.11: Results of the anxiety and depression subscales of participants from Group 1 and Group 2 over the four-week intervention period	108

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 4.1: The course of the study 88

ABBREVIATIONS

ADL	Activities of daily living
aekde1	The average number of errors made during the completion of the King-Devick Subtest 1
aekde2	The average number of errors made during the completion of the King-Devick Subtest 2
aekde3	The average number of errors made during the completion of the King-Devick Subtest 3
AHA / ASA	American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
ANCOVA	Analysis of Covariance
AHCPR	United States Agency for Health Care Policy and Research
BADL	Basic activities of daily living
BDI	Beck Depression Inventory
BI	Barthel Index
BIT	Behavioural Inattention Test
CNS	Central Nervous System
CVI	Cerebral vascular incident
EST	Explorative saccade training
FARS	Functional Autonomy Rating Scale
FIM	Functional Independence Measurement
fMRI	Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging
FT	Flicker-stimulation training
HADS	Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale
HADSA	Anxiety subscale
HADSD	Depression subscale
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRP	High-resolution perimetry

HVFDs	Homonymous visual field defects
IADL	Instrumental activities of daily living
ICC	Intraclass correlation coefficients
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
kde1	King-Devick Subtest 1
kde2	King-Devick Subtest 2
kde3	King-Devick Subtest 3
MAACL	Multiple Affect Adjective Checklist
MADRS	Montgomery Asberg Depression Rating Scale
MAT	Modified Metropolitan Achievement Test
MMAS	Modified Motor Assessment Scale
MMS	Mini-Mental Status
MMSE	Mini-Mental State Examination
PPC	Posterior Parietal Cortex
RCT	Randomised controlled trial
SAS	Stroke Activity Scale
SC	Superior colliculus
SD	Standard Deviation
SIS	Stroke Impact Scale Version 3.0
starcorrect	Results of the correct number of stars “cancelled” during the completion of the Star Cancellation Test
startime	Results of the time taken to complete the Star Cancellation Test
TRC	Tshwane Rehabilitation Centre
TUG	Timed Up and Go Test
UP	University of Pretoria
UNS	Unilateral Neglect Syndrome
USI	Unilateral Spatial Inattention

USN	Unilateral Spatial Neglect
V1	Primary visual cortex
VCR	Vestibulocollic Reflex
VOR	Vestibulo-ocular Reflex
VRT	Vision Restoration Training
VS	Visual search
VSR	Vestibulospinal Reflex
TNR	Tonic Neck Reflex
WAIS	Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
WHO	World Health Organization
WRAT	Wide Range Reading Achievement Test