

Vivid Visual Hallucinations in the Visually Impaired: Charles Bonnet Syndrome—An Analog to the “Phantom-Limb Phenomenon”

I read with interest the case report by Das *et al.*^[1] of a male patient with long-standing glaucoma who begins experiencing striking phantom percepts.

The piece highlights the pronounced trepidation that many vision-impaired people encounter when unusual visual phenomena spontaneously appear. Furthermore, because the affected individual often fears the worst case scenario, namely psychiatric disturbance or neurodegenerative decline, it becomes incumbent upon clinicians to be cognizant of, and sensitive to, these factors. Routine screening for, and forewarning of, Charles Bonnet syndrome (CBS) amongst sight-impaired patients can potentially circumvent needless and protracted anxiety.

In the discussion section, the authors state:

“CBS has also been reported among patients with congenital blindness.”

An article by Mewasingh *et al.*^[2] is drawn upon as support for this statement. However, in actuality, none of the children in this particular paper were born blind but rather acquired sudden—and often very significant—vision loss in their early years of life.

Our foundation is not aware of any case report demonstrating that CBS has occurred in instances of congenital blindness. In fact, to the contrary, it is widely held that CBS does not occur when a person is born blind.^[3-7] Prior visual experience appears to be a necessary precondition for CBS.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Submitted: 14-Aug-2020 **Revised:** 17-Sep-2020 **Accepted:** 06-Mar-2021
Published: 15-Apr-2021

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DOI: 10.4103/aian.AIAN_878_20