

We created a comprehensive **list of elementary visual symptoms** reported by **migraine patients**. We propose to implement this list within the **International Classification of Headache Disorders** of the International Headache Society.



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Elementary Visual Symptoms of migraine aura: A systematic review and proposal of an official list

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Clinical features of visual migraine aura: a systematic review. J Headache Pain. 2019;20(1):64.

AIM

Our aim was to perform a review of all visual disturbances in migraine aura and to create an official list of elementary visual symptoms.

METHODS

Systematic review of prospective and retrospective recordings of visual phenomena occurring during migraine aura and their respective frequencies.

RESULTS

Eleven retrospective studies and three prospective studies. The number of elementary visual symptoms reported ranged from two to 23. The final list contained 25 elementary visual symptoms.

Proposed Name	Description
Bright light	Single area of bright light
Foggy/blurred vision	Foggy or blurred vision
Zigzag lines	Zigzag or jagged lines
Scotoma	Single blind area
Scotomata	Several blind/black areas
Small bright dots	Small bright dots/stars
White dots/round forms	Medium sized white dots/round forms
Colored dots/round forms	Medium sized coloured dots/round forms
Lines (colored lines)	Lines (colored lines)
Geometrical shapes	Geometrical shapes
'Like looking through heat waves, water or oil'	'Like looking through heat waves, water or oil'
Visual snow	Dynamic, continuous, tiny dots usually black/gray on white background and gray/white on black background
'Bean-like' forms	'Bean-like' forms like a crescent or C-shaped
Hemianopsia	Blindness of half of the visual field
Deformed images	Deformed images (alteration of lines/angles)
Tunnel vision	Blindness in the whole periphery
Oscillopsia	Movement of stationary objects
Mosaic vision	Seeing mosaic-like
Fractured objects	Seeing fractured objects
Corona effect	An extra edge on objects
Anopia	Total blindness
Micropsia	Objects appear smaller or more distant than they actually are
Macropsia	Objects appear larger or closer than they actually are
Like a negative film	Seeing like a negative film
Complex hallucinations	Visual perception of something not present (e.g. objects, animals, and persons)



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