

The Occipital Lobe

The **occipital lobe** controls vision and depth perception.



Occipital lobe dysfunction is associated with a loss of peripheral vision, and an inability to focus or track movement results from damage to this area of the brain

Associated Behaviours

- Peripheral vision may be lost leading to tunnel vision, only seeing things, objects or people that are directly in front the individual (visual field cuts).
- Persons approaching from the side are not seen until they may appear to have “jumped in front of the patient”, causing startling responses.
- The person may have difficulty focusing on or tracking a moving object. He or she may no longer be able to follow a television show or movie, “losing interest” as a result.
- Difficulties with reading, writing, and recognition of objects, words, colors result from damage to the occipital lobe.

Effective Care Strategies

- Minimize risk of misperceptions during times of “low alertness” such as on awakening,
- Optimize lighting and visual cues using contrasting colors at interfaces between surfaces