

Confrontation Field Screening

Recommended Test: Finger Counting, Confrontation Visual Fields

Target Presentation: A specified number of fingers are presented in turn to each quadrant of the visual field.

Patient/Examiner Position: The examiner should be positioned approximately 1 meter from the patient and be facing them directly. The examiner and the patient should be approximately the same height. The patient should be unaided (i.e. should not be wearing any spectacles).

Illumination: Normal, even, room illumination. The absolute level is irrelevant as the technique involves a comparison of the patient's and examiner's visual fields.

Procedure:

1. Explain to the patient that you are going to measure the area over which they can see rather than how well they can see detail.
2. Examine each eye separately.
3. Ask the patient to occlude (cover) one eye (left) using their palm (not fingers). The examiner should similarly occlude the opposite eye (right).
4. Ask the patient to fixate upon your open eye (left) with their eye (right) and to report the number of fingers the examiner holds up in the peripheral field.
5. Hold up one, two or four fingers and examine each quadrant separately somewhere between 45° and 90° from fixation (Note: you should be able to see the target within your own visual field). Three fingers should not be used as it is difficult to differentiate between two and four.
6. If the fingers cannot be counted they should be moved towards fixation until they can, and the distance moved compared between the four quadrants.
7. In quadrants where fingers cannot be counted, it should be determined whether finger movements, then hand movements, and finally light blinking can be detected.
8. If a difference between quadrants is detected this may be confirmed by kinetically moving the fingers from one area to another.
9. If a patient has problems fixating, hold up both fists in a manner that will not allow the patient to tell you which hand you will be using. Elevate one, two or four fingers on one hand, lower them again before the patient can look at them.
10. Repeat for the other eye.

Sample Patient Instructions: "Cover your left eye with your palm and keep your gaze focused on my eye. I want you to tell me how many fingers I am holding up in different areas of your side vision."

Recording: Record the type of confrontation target detected for each quadrant. If fingers could be counted closer to fixation, note the approximate angle from fixation that this occurred.

Normal Result: Confrontation testing involves a comparison of the examiner's visual field with a patient's visual field. Providing there is no obvious abnormality in the examiner's field, the patient's field is considered within normal limits if it matches the examiner's field.

Interpretation: Confrontation field testing provides the minimum visual field data for any given patient. It is essential particularly in the detection of large absolute defects.

Most Common Errors:

1. Uneven illumination. Shadows within the visual field.
2. Too cluttered a visual field (loud tie or blouse, wall picture, bookcase).
3. Not accurately comparing your visual field with the patient's.
4. Showing three fingers.
5. Showing fingers for too short a period of time.
6. Allowing the patient to lose fixation.
7. Poor alignment for height.