



How you can diagnose CVI

You can make the diagnosis if your patient meets the following four criteria:

1. The child must be at least 6 months of age.
2. The vision loss is not explainable by abnormalities you find on the eye examination.
3. The child has a medical diagnosis that affects the brain.
4. The child shows one or more of the following visual behaviors:
 - a. Absent or clumsy visually guided motor response.
 - b. Preferentially responds to a flashing light toy, or brightly colored object (usually yellow or red) with ocular following, or smiling, or head/trunk movements.
 - c. The child responds more vigorously with visual stimulation approaching from one side of the visual field, or the other.
 - d. Delayed response to visual stimuli; taking longer to fix and follow, or to re-fixate to target in peripheral vision.
 - e. Looking up or away while looking at an object
 - f. Parent or vision teacher history that the child interacts visually in a more focused way when the workspace is uncluttered with reduced sensory complexity.
 - g. Parent reports child preferring to gaze at light.
 - h. Parent history of child not responding to people or large objects from across the room.

When the child meets criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4, diagnose CVI. See other side for next steps.



Diagnosing CVI: Next Steps

1. Inform parents that with intentional, strategic interventions, there is an expectation of improved functional vision.
2. Treat the ocular disorders as you usually do.
3. Certify the child as being "legally blind" or "visually impaired" due to neurological disorder under **ICD-10 H47.61** Cortical Blindness. This will qualify the child for state funded services for children with visual impairments.
4. Compose a letter to the parents with your diagnosis of Cortical Visual Impairment and recommend that the child receive "assessment and intervention for CVI by a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialist and other therapists who are knowledgeable about CVI."
5. Provide resources to the parents:
 - a. **PCVIS website is a hub of information on CVI: pcvis.vision**
 - b. American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS)
 - c. Perkins CVI Hub: perkinselearning.org/cvi
 - d. Start Seeing CVI: startseeingcvi.com
 - e. Kaleidoscope, The CVI Podcast: cvipodcast.vision
6. Provide support to the family, referring to other specialties as needed. Children with CVI need periodic eye/ocular assessments every 1-2 years at minimum for a periodic certification of diagnosis.

PCVIS is a multi-discipline non-profit 501(c)(3) organization created to further advocacy for children with CVI, heighten public awareness, and promote research and other activities that lead to improvement in vision care for children with CVI.