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## Review Article

# Mental optometry: Perceive to see with the mind's eye

Jamshed Ali<sup>1\*</sup>, Gaurav Dubey<sup>2</sup>, Zeba Hayat<sup>3</sup>, Prasenjit Das<sup>4</sup>, Simi Afroz<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Optometry, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Era University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Optometry, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, India

<sup>3</sup>Dept. of Optometry, Glocal University, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

<sup>4</sup>Dept. of Optometry, Dr. B C Roy Engineering College, Durgapur, West Bengal, India

<sup>5</sup>Dept. of Optometry, School of Allied Health Sciences, G. D. Goenka University, Gurugram, Haryana, India



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## ABSTRACT

Mental optometry is a newly recognized word that refers to the interaction of the mind, brain, and sensory perceptions. The pattern established by behavioural optometry's research and assumption linking bodily orientation to the physical field of vision will be followed by the mind's eye, emotions, and actions. All three theories imply the presence of such an idea as a fundamental component of their systems, even if it isn't formally stated. The database was compiled using PubMed, PubMed Central (PMC), the Cochrane library, Google scholar, and research gate. Mental Optometry provides a neurobiologically informed knowledge of mood, emotion, and thinking. Visual stimulus interpretations, enabling for therapeutic treatments to help patients recognize and rectify skewed judgments. Optometrists have an important role in patients with mental illness. Finally, we must evaluate how enhancing ocular health and visual suppleness may assist our patients improve their overall feeling of well-being.

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## 1. Introduction

The newly formed concept of mental optometry is fully described in this lecture, and the roots of many mental disorders are further understood. Mental optometry covers the neurobiology and the many emotions and actions that arise from the perceptions that underlie reality. There is a strong link between brain structures, sight, and bodily orientation, which supports the idea that you go where you are looking. Cognitive bias change is a strategy for modifying one's prejudices by minimizing negative interpretations and changing one is concerned with. Much research has been published indicating the positive benefits of cognitive bias changes on anxiety vulnerability reduction and anxiety reduction.<sup>1</sup> In addition, by inventing

a new term of mental optometry, conceptualizing the problems of a customer increases its probability of recovery.<sup>1,2</sup> Researchers studying physical eyesight and body orientation revealed our neurological tendency of aligning our bodies with our field of view. When it comes to hand, body, and eye synchronization, the parietal regions and cerebellum are responsible. They are delivered to the prefrontal and limbic systems, where they are interpreted by the same neural networks. It's possible to feel activated while watching these events unfold. Many people have been distracted while driving in one lane by objects in their peripheral vision. While maintaining physical attention on the distraction, the car would inevitably wander in the direction in which the driver is directing it. This is the underlying concept at play. It is the interpretations of visual experiences that individuals use to construct their reality.<sup>3,4</sup> These interpretations give rise to internal

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [alijamshed429@gmail.com](mailto:alijamshed429@gmail.com) (J. Ali).

narratives, which can either be beneficial and healthy or detrimental and unhealthy. A person's outlook on life is established by these stories and interpretations. These false perceptions might divert attention and lead to unintended emotional interpretation, as seen in the case before.<sup>4-6</sup> This book analyses the studies on visual perception and imaging, field of vision, self-talk, and the mind in order to better comprehend the neurological similarities and interactions across these areas. This information can aid in our comprehension of the mechanisms behind the efficacy of cognitive-behavioral therapy. More research into this construct may result in the development of treatments that alter the mental field of view to produce proactive behavioural and emotional outcomes. The aim of this paper is to a comprehensive integrated and responsive of the newly formed concept of Mental Optometry. Additionally, to increase awareness and information about Mental Optometry. Including objectives to generate awareness among parents, teachers and students about Mental health and ocular health anomalies related symptoms, to assess ocular health and The purpose of this chapter is to describe the well-established link between brain structures, vision, and orientation. You are providing support for the notion that 'you travel where your gaze is directed. behaviors. When we envision events with our mind's eye (i.e., out in our mind's eye, the visual cortex and limbic system we are seeing assertion of the author's that the same process occurs with what is seen in the mind's eye. There has been a significant lot of research into how eyesight works and how it influences how the body moves throughout time. Due to the fact that the findings of this research have already received widespread recognition, this study will not go into detail on the trials themselves. Instead, it will act as a foundation for other studies. The body and head motions that affect the direction of vision have received the majority of attention in this field of study.<sup>7-9</sup> While others kept an eye on the subject's gaze during movement<sup>9,10</sup> According to studies, fixation and visual information cause the head to reorient, bringing the body into line with the visual field. This information comes from various research looking at how movement, environment, and vision interact. Vision may help manage postural sway by causing the eyes to rotate in the direction of the visual input. On page,<sup>11</sup> it was observed that while vision helps preserve posture in a virtual world, it helps considerably more in a real world.<sup>12,13</sup>

Research Gate, PubMed Central (PMC), Cochrane Library, Google Scholar, and other sources were used to compile the data for this database. Several studies used brain imaging to investigate how patterns of brain connection - the ability of different brain regions to communicate with one another - can influence a person's risk of acquiring prevalent kinds of mental illness. Surprisingly, they discovered that the brain region that aid in the processing of visual information may play an important role in mental health.

The findings indicate that when the visual cortex has difficulty communicating with brain networks responsible for attention and reflection, a person's chance of developing a mental disorder increases significantly. Additionally, defects in visual processing are susceptible to alterations in mood and psychiatric disease. These abnormalities are associated with a breakdown in information signaling travelling from the thalamus to levels of cortical processing. The influence of emotional emotions on the initial stages of visual sensory processing has also been shown by research employing functional magnetic resonance imaging. These emotional states are likely to alter how people interpret and perceive future visual data. Negative mood states that have an immediate effect on how we perceive and interpret visually presented items include depression, anxiety, and fury. Additionally, a number of studies have indicated that gaze is somewhat connected with mood and attitude, with pessimistic people looking more at unpleasant and negative sights than positive people. This is something I noticed. With the help of various past studies on the subject, I conducted this research.

In conjunction with positive self-talk, it is the experience of perception that makes it possible to feel happy feelings more frequently. It has long been understood that happy feelings, as opposed to negative feelings, boost a person's capacity to attain greater physical and emotional well-being.<sup>14-19</sup> In Frederickson's<sup>17</sup> broaden-and-build theory of positive emotions, which includes joy, interest, contentment, pride, and love, increased levels of creativity, openness to new experiences, and sharing positive experiences with others can all be linked to. An unhappy emotional state seems to make it harder to use a good thought-behavior repertoire while also making it more likely to use a negative thought-behavior repertoire. Positive emotions make it easier to engage in proactive actions and ideas that advance and improve both one's own and other people's wellbeing.<sup>16,17</sup> It has been shown that experiencing joyful emotions helps ward against depression, and that those who feel more happy feelings than sad ones seem to be more resilient.<sup>19</sup> The fact that people who utilize their positive emotions to overcome their unpleasant experiences are not completely unaffected by their negative feelings does not mean that they do not feel the anguish and anxiety that come with catastrophic events like the September 11 terrorist attacks.<sup>10</sup> The difference was that they could use their positive feelings to balance out the overwhelming negative emotions they were experiencing. This strategy entails making a conscious decision to look in a particular direction, regardless of the situation. Individuals may also benefit from utilizing their creativity to seek new strategies and information that will assist them in dealing with future emergencies. This appears to be the case since the basic law of physics states that two objects cannot occupy the same place at the same time.

At the same time, there is a lack of room. When one's mind is engaged, it is impossible to experience a pleasant flow of emotions, well-being, and physical health at the same time. Those who believe in mental optometry think that this process occurs as a result of the individual making a deliberate decision to gaze in that direction. Although the mind is difficult to identify or pinpoint inside the brain, it is commonly accepted that the prefrontal cortex of the brain is the region primarily responsible for awareness and conscious activity.<sup>14</sup> According to recent research, the medial frontal cortex (MFC) plays an important role in cognitive control, intention, choice, and volition – all of which are regarded as components of consciousness and decision-making and decision-making processes.<sup>12,13,20,21</sup> Changing one's actions, ideas, and emotions are all examples of deliberate acts that are the hallmarks of human will. These characteristics are essential to grasping the concept of the mind and comprehending how it works. The location of volition and human will in the brain has been the focus of scientists' efforts for years; however, some believe that volition and human will may not be as easily identified as they believe due to the possibility that they exist in more than one region of the brain rather than a single area.<sup>17</sup> Some criticize volition. Volition was considered nonexistent with the rise of behaviorism since it could not be assessed experimentally. Brain scanning allows us to quantify brain activity and thus the inner workings of the mind.<sup>22–25</sup> It requires a conscious desire to engage in or stop an activity, unlike automatic or conditioned actions. A person's will rather than an external trigger creates this will. I dare everyone to add a few additional questions to their examinations. More precisely, test for mental health difficulties and incorporate them into optometry's research of the systemic disease. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), over 18.3 percent of adults in the United States had a mental disease in 2016.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, just 44% of those diagnosed with mental disorders received treatment.<sup>26</sup> This suggests that around one in ten patients may have an undiagnosed or untreated mental health issue. The numbers for adolescents are even more worrisome. According to a recent study conducted in England, 23.9 percent of females aged 17 to 19 were likely to suffer from a mental disorder, notably depression or anxiety.<sup>26</sup> This is more than double the rate for men in the same age range. According to the NIMH, the lifetime prevalence of any mental disorder is 49.5 percent among those aged 13–18.<sup>7,11,27</sup> Unfortunately, mental health care providers are scarce, which necessitates more regular screening by primary care physicians.<sup>2,7,26</sup> Optometrists get to know their patients and make treatment recommendations based on their unique circumstances. As a result, optometrists and ophthalmologists can make a difference by conducting mental health screenings. If left untreated, mental health diseases can have a detrimental effect on patients' quality

of life, capacity to be and feel productive, and even death.

Although depression comes in various forms, this article will focus on persistent depressive illness or clinical depression. This is defined as "a state of depression that lasts at least two years."<sup>19</sup>

Symptoms include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Persistent depression, anxiety, or an "empty" attitude
2. Hopelessness or pessimism
3. Irritation
4. Senses of shame, insignificance, or powerlessness
5. Decreased interest or enjoyment in hobbies and activities
6. Low energy or weariness
7. Slower movement or speech
8. Uneasy or unable to sit still
9. Difficulties with concentration, memory, and decision-making
10. Difficulty sleeping, waking up early in the morning or oversleeping
11. Changes in appetite and weight
12. Suicidal thoughts or attempts
13. Aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive difficulties that have no obvious physical cause and persist despite treatment.

Although there are "typical" symptoms on this list, such melancholy and interest loss, over 70% of people with depression also have physical problems.<sup>6,11</sup> Compared to mental problems, these physical symptoms are far more socially acceptable. The source of the physical symptoms, not the mental ones, is what doctors are seeking for; yet, they can also delay the diagnosis of depression. Although somatization is frequently used as a coping mechanism for depression, it can also be a real depressive symptom. There are biochemical pathways that are shared by both pain and depression, most notably those that involve serotonin and norepinephrine.<sup>8</sup> There are several ways to screen for depression. As part of their care, optometrists are required to examine patients for systemic problems. By checking for common mental health conditions, ODs may have a significant influence on a patient's life—possibly even saving it. The issue of include these screens in the treatment of every patient is one that all ODs must deal with.<sup>1,18</sup>

## 2. Discussion

It may be possible for practitioners and patients to get a better understanding of how our thoughts, moods, visual perception, and optical sensory perception interact through the use of mental optometry as a therapeutic technique. The study provides considerable evidence for the brain's adaptability. This is a relatively recent discovery in functional imaging, especially with respect to psychotherapy treatments.<sup>4</sup> These processes may be strengthened by our mental orientation, so supporting either

general mental health or mental sickness. By shedding light on the variety of complex and interconnected processes and brain areas involved in the interplay of affect, imagery, perception, movement, and orientation, neurobiology has advanced our understanding of mood and emotion. The development of therapeutic interventions to help patients recognize and correct skewed vision is made possible by Mental Optometry, which equips the practitioner with thoughts and interpretations of visual cues as well as a working knowledge of the neurology underlying visual functions, such as perception and images. Numerous studies have shown a link between visual impairment and later mental health issues in the elderly. This study also demonstrates that problems with mental health may lead to vision loss. Because I could not afford to do my own research and gather the data, which is a common method used in studies of this kind, my study's main limitation is that it is relied on prior research and findings. Due to the scale of the study, I followed the same research procedure and then consulted a variety of experts for their experience. I also went to the hospital, which gathered yearly data on self-reported vision impairment and mental health symptoms in older people, and saw the number of individuals who showed up with both bad eyesight and a mental disorder of some kind. I strongly recommend that primary care providers think about vision screening for patients with depression or anxiety symptoms and that eye care professionals include mental health screening in their evaluations of older patients with vision loss as a consequence of their results.

### 3. Conclusion

The phenomenology of mental imaging, or what we see in our minds' eyes, was acknowledged as early as the Greek philosopher. The concept of the mind, on the other hand, was relegated to the margins of scientific investigation throughout the behaviorism because it was impossible to objectively measure and was only recently acknowledged as a legitimate cognitive activity. The physical image is represented by mental images. Based on what the person experiencing it actually experiences, a mental image is created. Self-awareness is one of the mechanisms that is thought to contribute to this process. Self-talk has been shown to be essential for self-regulation, problem resolution, and planning. Maladaptive self-talk has long been understood to be a fundamental component of psychopathology, including anxiety and depression. Internal discourse is powered by narratives that are created as a result of life experiences and act as filters for shows that, although society contributes to the development of a person's sense of self, it is ultimately controlled by the person. An individual is taught by society how they should see themselves, but they are not required to embrace that view. One of the behavioural effects of self-talk is self-control. The study's

authors came to the conclusion that the inner voice might help people control their behaviour because it can help them resist unwanted cravings. Additionally, they argued that losing focus on one's inner voice compromises one's ability to maintain self-control. According to study, words spoken by influential people may have both positive and negative impacts on a child's self-talk. According to the research, constructive self-talk serves as a bridge between encouraging remarks from parents and instructors. Similar to how negative self-talk serves as a barrier between teachers' and parents' critical remarks and their impact on a person's self-esteem. This process starts to define what and how a person sees in their mind's eye.

### 4. Conflict of Interest

None.

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### Author biography

**Jamshed Ali**, Assistant Professor

**Gaurav Dubey**, Optometry Resident  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5164-6034>

**Zeba Hayat**, Assistant Professor  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3628-5453>

**Prasenjit Das**, Assistant Professor

**Simi Afroz**, Assistant Professor

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