

Information for Patients

Peli prism lens for homonymous hemianopia

What is a homonymous hemianopia?

A hemianopia is where there is a loss of one half of your visual field. A homonymous hemianopia involves visual field loss on the same side of the visual field in both eyes. This may mean that you are not able to see to either the left or right from the centre of your field of vision.

What does a Peli prism lens do?

A Peli prism lens aims to expand your peripheral visual field if you have a homonymous hemianopia. It works by using high powered prisms to shift the image from the side with visual field loss onto the other side where you can see it.

The Peli prism lens aims to help with mobility to help you to safely navigate the environment, avoid obstacles and feel more confident when out and about. The Peli prism lens may be a hindrance for other activities, such as reading or watching television. You cannot use the Peli prism lens for driving in the UK.

What does the Peli prism lens look like?



There are 2 prisms on the spectacle lens at the top and bottom above and below the pupil.

- If you have a left sided hemianopia (you are missing vision on your left hand side) the prisms will be on your left spectacle lens.

- If you have a right sided hemianopia (you are missing vision on your right hand side) the prisms will be on your right spectacle lens.
- If you don't normally wear spectacles then you may be given a new pair of spectacles with 'plain' non-prescription lenses to stick the prisms onto.

When you are first fitted with a Peli prism lens we will stick the prisms onto the back surface of your spectacle lens. If you find the Peli prism lens helpful after a trial period of wear we may consider getting the prisms embedded into the spectacle lens.

What does the field expansion look like?

Many people describe the expanded field as a 'ghost image'. The 'ghost image' from the expanded visual field is likely to appear closer to the centre of your vision than it truly is. When the Peli prism lens is first worn it may create a degree of visual confusion. It is normal for it to take time to adapt to the Peli prism lens and to be able to appreciate the benefit of the expanded field. Some people may struggle to adapt and may discontinue wear after they have tried it.

Tips for success

- Always look through the central portion of your spectacle lens between the prisms. Looking directly through either prism will give you double vision.
- You can practise training exercises at home to help you adapt to the prism and minimise the visual confusion. It is easiest if you have a friend, relative or carer to help you:
 - With the other person opposite you, fixate on their nose.
 - Ask the other person to slowly move their hand into your field of vision from the side with the visual field loss.
 - Point to and touch their hand as it appears through the prism.
 - Repeat this multiple times.

When you first use the Peli prism lens try it in a familiar uncluttered environment. As you become more confident you can then start to use it in new and busier places.

For more information and support or if you require further advice relating to the information in this leaflet please email the Optometry department on low.vision@mft.nhs.uk