

CVI: Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment

What is CVI?

Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) is caused by damage or interruption to the brain's visual pathways or visual processing areas. CVI is based in the brain rather than the eyes, but affects how visual information is processed and interpreted.

Who's at risk?

Common causes of CVI include complications from premature birth, lack of oxygen, pediatric stroke, and genetic conditions. Those with healthy eyes and without other conditions can still have CVI.

CVI is common in neurodevelopmental conditions:

➤ 60-70% of kids with cerebral palsy have CVI. 64% of kids with CVI have epilepsy, 72% have developmental delay, and research shows CVI prevalence in Down syndrome, autism, and rare diseases.

What does CVI look like?

People with CVI often have common visual behaviors and traits, but CVI can manifest differently in everyone. CVI is lifelong and affects the ability to attend to and recognize the visual world.

Many with CVI have difficulty with:



Looking at an object



Recognizing what they're looking at



Visually tracking a moving object



Looking and finding something in visual clutter



Recognizing objects, images, and patterns



Light sensitivity or need for more light



Using vision with other sensory inputs



Hand-eye and eye-foot coordination



Using all visual fields



Recognizing people



Navigating inside and outside spaces



Using distance vision



Visual fatigue that leads to shutdown

CVI represents opportunity. With access to timely diagnosis, early and targeted interventions, highly-trained teachers, and quality educational services, we can help kids with CVI access their world.

#1

CVI is the leading cause of childhood blindness and low vision.

1 in 30

UK study shows there may be one child with CVI in every classroom.

180,000

There are at least 180,000 kids with CVI in the U.S. (an underestimate).

20%

CVI is alarmingly underdiagnosed, less than 20% have a diagnosis.

CVI NOW
Perkins School for the Blind.

Learn how to support and care for children with CVI. Go to

CVINow.org