

# **C/P Saccades**

## **MacDonald Chart**

(Oculomotor)

**Prerequisite:** The patient is able to fixate on a target and indicate objects either verbally or by touch/pointing.

**Purpose:** To build an awareness of peripheral vision and how to use it while fixating on an object so that the patient's magnocellular and parvocellular systems may become balanced.

**Appropriate for whom:** This activity is appropriate for all patients, especially at the beginning of therapy.

### **Procedure:**

**Materials:** Emergent MacDonald Card: C/P Saccadic Chart  
Occluder (optional)

1. The patient fixates on the central target.
2. The patient is asked to become aware of the peripheral targets.
3. The patient touches, points to, or verbally indicates the position of the peripheral targets.

Loading options:

- The peripheral targets may be moved further from the central fixation target.
- The peripheral targets may be made smaller.
- The number of peripheral targets may be increased.
- The peripheral targets may be moving.

### **Key Observations/Questions:**

- Is the patient maintaining fixation on the central target?
- Is the patient's fixation broken when their attempt to touch a peripheral target is unsuccessful?
- Is the patient's fixation broken if a cognitive load is added?
- Is the patient accurate in the peripheral localization - do they succeed in touching the target?
- Is the patient using their hand to feel for the target or using their vision to guide their hand to the target?

### **Variations:**

- "May" language (these are ways to download the activity and prepare them to come back to the chart)
- May ask the patient to fixate on the therapist's eyes (as in a staring contest) and give high fives without peeking.
- May ask the patient to fixate on the therapist's eyes (as in a staring contest) while touching and/or moving peripheral objects.

- May draw central and peripheral targets on the whiteboard.
- May use activities on the SVI.
- May ask the patient to pick up bean bags on the floor while maintaining fixation on a target as they move about the room.
- See Peripheral Bean Bag Toss activity protocol for more variations on this theme.

### **Troubleshooting:**

- The patient is unable to maintain fixation on the target
  - A more interesting target may be used to engage the patient, such as the therapist's face or a cartoon character they like.
  - The patient may touch the target.
  - The number of peripheral targets may be decreased.
  - The peripheral targets may be moved closer to the central target.
- The patient is inaccurate in their peripheral localization
  - Encourage the patient to notice the space between objects.
  - Encourage the patient to move slowly.
  - Move the object so that it's relative position becomes more apparent.
- The patient has difficulty noticing some or all of the peripheral targets
  - Remove any unnecessary visual noise so that only the central and peripheral targets remain.
  - Make the targets larger or more brightly colored.
  - Move the peripheral targets.
  - Increase the distance between the patient and the targets. For example, ask the patient to back away from the whiteboard.