

Unilateral neglect is a multimodal neuropsychological disorder that is often caused by a right hemisphere stroke. Impaired visual search performance in neglect patients can be improved by repeating distractors sets in the right and left visual fields of patients. This suggests that the perceptual organization of target context is relatively intact in the affected and the non-affected hemifields of neglect patients. Attentional processing seems to operate at a hierarchically higher level of perceptual organization than vision. This knowledge may be used to improve visual search performance in neglect patients. In a similar way, PA was found to improve visual search ability in patients with the same disorder when cognitive load was kept low in contrast to when it was high. These effects were found to last for at least 90-120 minutes. Improvements were found in visual search tasks and standard neglect tests to last for a similar length of time following NVPA, despite a high cognitive load. NV produced improvement in the visual search task but not in the classical neglect tests. The findings suggest that a combined approach of NV and PA produces longer-lasting and generally more therapeutic effects than when these interventions are used separately. Many different therapeutic designs are possible. When a great number of therapeutic studies were explored systematically, combined and sequential approaches yielded the clearest improvements in various neglect symptoms. This underlines the new frontiers of neglect therapy and the importance of coaction between different interventions and designs. Lastly, there is a lack of general understanding of neglect among people who are acquainted with patients suffering from this disorder. It is important to explain to these people the nature of the impairment in a simple and non-technical way. In addition, it is important to explore neglect-like symptoms in healthy subjects, as it can be influenced by emotional factors to maximize our understanding of the disorder.

