

# Prosopagnosia

Prosopagnosia, also known as face blindness, is a neurological disorder characterized by the inability to recognize faces. Face blindness often affects people from birth and is usually a problem a person has for most or all of their life. It can have a severe impact on everyday life.

## 1. Causes

Prosopagnosia is thought to be the result of **abnormalities, damage, or impairment in the right fusiform gyrus**, a fold in the brain that appears to coordinate the neural system that controls facial perception and memory. It can result from **stroke, traumatic brain injury or certain neurodegenerative diseases**.



## 2. Impact

A person with this disorder may **avoid social interaction and develop social anxiety disorder**, an overwhelming fear of social situations. They may also have difficulty forming relationships or experience problems with their career. Feelings of depression are common.

## 3. Treatments

There's **no specific treatment** for prosopagnosia, but researchers are continuing to investigate this. Various training programs are being developed to help improve facial recognition. Those with this disorder must **learn other ways of remembering faces by using clues such as hair, voice and clothes that may help identify people**. Therapy or medications may be able to treat depression related to this condition.



## 4. Types

There are two main types of prosopagnosia: developmental and acquired

## 5. Developmental

Onset of prosopagnosia without a traumatic head injury or brain damage



## 6. Acquired

Development of prosopagnosia after brain damage, often following a stroke or head injury.

## 7. Similar disorders

Prosopagnosia is not related to memory problems, vision loss or learning disabilities, but is sometimes associated with other developmental disorders, such as Autism spectrum disorder, Williams disorder, and Turner syndrome.



  
The Vagus Project  
Neuroscience Foundation

## References

"Prosopagnosia", <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosopagnosia>  
"Prosopagnosia (face blindness)", <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/face-blindness/#:~:text=Prosopagnosia%2C%20also%20known%20as%20face,severe%20impact%20on%20everyday%20life>