

Perspective: Survey of Patients with Stereopsis Acquired as Adults

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In recent years it has become clear that those born with deficient stereoscopic vision can acquire this capacity as adults under some circumstances. Sue Barry, who had no measurable stereopsis, acquired better than 100 arcseconds of stereoacuity following one year of optometric vision therapy (Barry, 2009). Bruce Bridgeman experienced stereopsis after viewing the film "Hugo" in 3D (Bridgeman, 2014), an ability that has endured for more than two years. Fortunately, professionally measured stereoscopic thresholds were available for periods both before and after the Hugo experience; static stereoacuity improved from 200 arc seconds on Wirt Circles before the experience to 80 arc seconds afterward. Media reports on CNN, BBC and other sources resulted in emails from people all over the world who had similar experiences.

This raises the possibility that some patients viewing a 2-hour film in stereoscopic 3D might experience benefits such as those gained through more formalized therapy. For future clinical interventions it is important to know for the recovered patients both what kinds of visual anomalies resulted in poor stereopsis, and what kinds of experiences triggered acquisition of stereopsis. To investigate this further, Bridgeman has created a survey to document



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the experiences of those who had acquired stereopsis.

To extend this survey to the maximum number of patients, we are asking optometrists and other vision professionals to offer the survey to patients who have acquired stereopsis, either through formal training or informal experience such as viewing a 3D film. **The survey is available online at <http://bit.ly/1vThYaM>.**

References

1. Barry, S. R. *Fixing My Gaze: A Scientist's Journey into Seeing in Three Dimensions*. New York, NY: Basic Books; 2009.
2. Bridgeman, B. Restoring adult stereopsis: A vision researcher's personal experience. *Optom Vis Sci* 2014;91(6):135-139