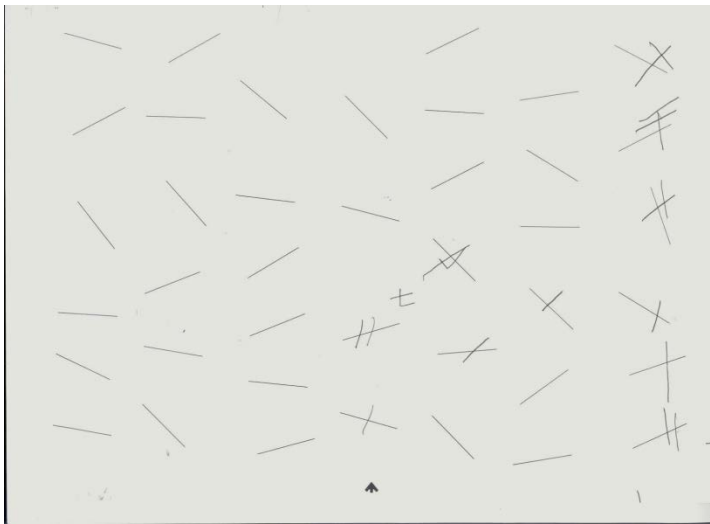


### Visual neglect tests:

Visual neglect tests are designed to assess the lack of visual attention and awareness of the patient (usually of his/her left side).

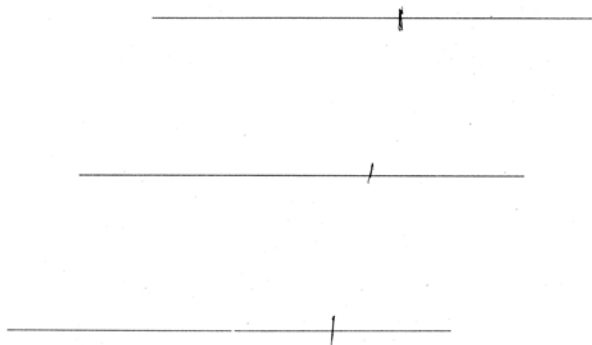
Tests that can be used are:

**Line crossing or cancellation testing:** the patient is asked to cross out all the lines (or particular items) on a sheet:



Example of line crossing responses of a patient suffering from visual neglect

**Line bisection testing:** the patient is asked to mark the centre of a line of typically about 20 cm



Example of line bisection behaviour of a patient suffering from visual neglect.

**Extinction testing:** two items (for example 2 pens, or 2 spoons) are presented (one on the left, one on the right) in front of the patient. The patient will fail to respond to the item on the opposite side of the brain damage (usually the patient's left). Extinction can be a mild form of neglect.

**A typical scenario to assess visual neglect (see neglect video) may be:**

Assessor sits opposite patient. Assessor places A4 sheet with printed lines, centrally in front of patient.

*Instructions:* I would like you to cross out all the lines on this sheet like this (demonstrates by crossing out 2 lines in the centre of the sheet). Please start (assessor hands pencil to patient).

Patient starts to cross out items. When patient stops assessor may ask: Are you finished?

Patients may or may not cross out more items (and possibly some that were already crossed out). Once patient stops assessor thanks patient and removes sheet.

**Assessment:**

Cancellation tests are designed to quantify the number of omissions on the neglected (usually left) side, whereas line bisection tasks measure the extent of the bias to the non-neglected (usually right) side.

Commonly used tests to assess visual neglect are the Behavioural Inattention Test and the Balloons Test. These tests are available for purchase from Pearson Assessment.

**References:**

The Balloons Test. Thames Valley Test Company, 1998, UK.

The Behavioural Inattention Test. Thames Valley Test Company, 1987, UK.