

Visual Snow Syndrome Diagnostic Criteria

- A. Dynamic, continuous tiny dots across the entire visual field persisting for more than three months.
- B. Additional visual symptoms of at least two of the following four types:
 - 1. Palinopsia (persistent recurrence of a visual image and/or trailing images after the stimulus has been removed)
 - 2. Enhanced entoptic phenomena*
 - 3. Photophobia (sensitivity of intolerance of light, which can cause some people to avoid sunlight, computers, fluorescent lights, and car headlights)
 - Nyctalopia (impaired night vision)
- C. Symptoms are not consistent with typical migraine visual aura
- D. Symptoms are not better accounted for by another medical condition

*excessive floaters in both eyes, excessive blue field entoptic phenomenon (uncountable little grey, white, or black dots or rings shooting over the visual field of both eyes when looking at homogeneous bright surfaces such as the blue sky), self-lighting of the eye (colored waves or clouds perceived when closing the eyes in the dark), and spontaneous photopsia (bright flashes of light)

Visual Symptoms:

- Visual snow (dynamic snow-like dots all over the field of vision)
- Photopsia (flashes of light) or small floating objects
- Photophobia (sensitivity to light)
- Palinopsia (continuing to see an image after it is no longer in the field of vision)
- Enhanced entoptic phenomena (seeing images within the eye itself)

Excessive blue field entoptic phenomenon (numerous dots or rings moving across both visual fields when looking at a bright, uniform surface, e.g., blue sky)

- Diplopia (double vision)
- Nyctalopia (impaired night vision)
- Other visual effects, such as starbursts and halos
- Visual distortions

Non-Visual Symptoms:

- Tinnitus (ringing, humming, or buzzing sounds)
- Depersonalization (feeling detached from yourself)
- Anxiety
- Depression
- · Frequent migraines
- Brain fog and confusion
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Insomnia and other sleep related-issues
- Paresthesia (tingling "pins-and-needles" sensations, commonly in the arms, hands, legs and feet)
- Sensory hypersensitivity / hyperesthesia
- · Susceptibility to sensory overload
- Balance issues
- Tremors
- Cutaneous Allodynia
- Hyperacusis
- Phonophobia
- Dry Eyes

Note: Above is a list of the most common symptoms associated with Visual Snow Syndrome. Please note this is not a full representation of every symptom that can occur or should warrant a Visual Snow Syndrome diagnosis.

Peter Goadsby, MD PhD Professor of Neurology

Owen White, MD PhD FRACP Professor of Neurosciences

Sierra Domb

Founder, Visual Snow Initiative

Victoria Susan Pelak, MD

Professor of Neurology and Ophthalmology

Yasser Khan, MD FRCSC

Oculoplastic, Orbital and Ophthalmic Surgery

The Visual Snow Initiative website is for informational purposes only. The contents do not constitute medical advice; the content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of a physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read on this website. This website does not recommend or endorse any specific tests, physicians, products, procedures, opinions, or other information that may be mentioned on the Site. Reliance on any information provided by this website is solely at your own risk.