

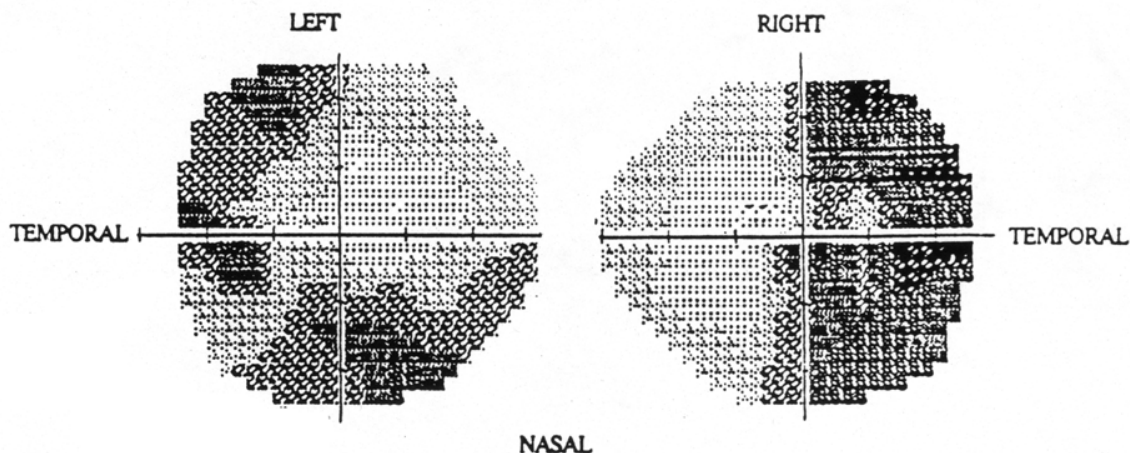
Case 14: MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY AND VISUAL CHANGES
(Slide CC12-1)

Chief Complaint: A 50 year old woman presented to her ophthalmologist due to several months of **worsening vision** that has begun to interfere with her driving.

History of Present Illness/Past Medical History: The patient was well until about seven months ago when she first noticed difficulty seeing the road one night while driving home from a party. Her vision gradually became worse over the following months, but she denies other symptoms such as headache, nausea, vomiting, weight gain/loss, change in energy level, etc. She has a history of **menstrual irregularity** going back many years, and adopted a daughter several years ago because she was unable to get pregnant.

Family History: No family history of glaucoma, or other ophthalmologic or neurologic illness.

Physical Examination: **Mildly obese** woman in no apparent distress. General physical exam, neurologic exam, and ophthalmologic exam normal except for **visual field deficits** as indicated below. The patient was asked to fixate on a target in the center of her visual field. A small diameter spot was then presented in the visual field of the patient and the diameter was varied until the threshold at which the spot could just barely be seen was determined. This was repeated for many locations in the visual field for each eye and the threshold of detection was mapped as shown below, with darker shades indicating larger diameters needed for detection, and lighter shades indicating smaller diameters for detection.



Questions:

1. In what part of the visual pathway could a single lesion produce the type of visual field deficits present in our patient?
2. What other aspects of our patient's story also suggest a lesion in this general area?
3. What is the differential diagnosis?