A case of prosopometamorphopsia restricted to the lower part of face with right medial temporooccipital lobe infarction

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Background: Metamorphopsia includes a broad spectrum of visual perceptual distortions, such as alteration of perceived object size or, rarely, altered perception of faces, termed prosopometamorphopsia. We report a patient who complained of metamorphopsia restricted to the lower part of the face, following a right medial temporooccipital lobe infarction. Case report: A 75-year-old right-handed woman was admitted for a sudden blurred vision. She complained of dimmed vision, and the central part of faces, particularly the nose and mouth, appearing out of shape. Regardless of whether she looked at a familiar or an unknown person, she claimed, "The nose looks very narrow as well as lengthened toward the mouth, which looks small and round in shape.". Her description of how she saw faces seemed as if viewed through a convex lens. She had no prosopagnosia; when presented with images of ten famous Korean faces. She had no impairment in her visuoperceptual performances or in color perception. Other components of the neurologic examination were normal. She had no cognitive or psychiatric impairment. Diffusion weighted MRI revealed an infarction in the right medial temporooccipital lobe, including the parahippocampal gyrus. Conclusion: Face perception is thought to be mediated by a distributed neural system with major entry node is the lateral fusiform gyrus. We speculated that any injury on this pathway could bring about prosopometamorphopsia, such as in our case, distortion restricted to the central area of the face. Furthermore, we hypothesized that there could be topographical correspondences between facial structure and the fusiform face area.

