



KEYNOTE

Cerebral Visual Impairment: a multifaceted disorder

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Els Ortibus trained as a neuropsychiatrist and rehabilitation physician in Leuven, Belgium. She finished her PhD on Clinical and Radiological Measures of CVI, focussing on the ventral stream, in 2011. Since then, she continued her work on the development of new diagnostic tools for CVI in young and multiple disabled children and their relation with brain damage. Since 2012, she's the head of the Centre for Developmental Disabilities in Leuven, where she runs the CVI clinic and coordinates the follow up of preterm born infants. She is also a staff member of the Cerebral Palsy Reference Centre of the University Hospitals in Leuven. Her main research topics in addition to CVI are the relation of brain damage with upper and lower limb function and (early) intervention in children with cerebral palsy.

Keynote lecture outline

CVI is a neurological disorder in which visual perception is disturbed due to neurological causes, typically situated behind the optic chiasm. Currently, in the developed countries, it is the more frequent cause of visual disability and 75% of children having CP are reported to have one or other characteristic of CVI. The condition has a large negative impact on all aspects of development and that is why early diagnosis is mandatory. Since CVI is very heterogeneous and has overlap with other conditions such as DCD or ASD, diagnosis is often delayed or CVI goes unnoticed.

This talk will handle the development of (screening) tools for children from the age of 24 months onwards. These tools are the result from a fruitful collaboration between vision scientists and

clinicians. They enable further understanding of cerebral visual impairment in young children and shed light on the relation between specific visual perceptual functions and brain damage. Also, they might help in disentangling the overlap with comorbid conditions.