

## Letter to the Editor

### Controlled binocular acuity (CBA)

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**Summary:** Controlled binocular acuity is defined and the reference for the reasons behind proposing the new term given.

We have proposed the term controlled binocular acuity (CBA)<sup>1</sup> to replace binocular visual acuity (BVA). Confusion between vision with both eyes open and vision under binocular control has occurred in the literature across different specialties.

Our definition of CBA is: The maximum visual acuity obtainable while maintaining binocular single vision (irrespective of unocular visual acuity). The first part of the definition is that used in the British Orthoptic Society's Dictionary of Common Terms<sup>2</sup> for BVA. The latter part is contrary to some teaching. A patient may maintain control of a deviation beyond the level of acuity of the weaker eye and so we clarify, in the

definition, that the measure we wish to record is the highest acuity during which binocular single vision is maintained, whatever the weaker eye can see.

Dissociation may interfere with the ability to control a deviation and this test should be performed without the use of a cover test, that is by observation only, whenever possible. Only if, on initial cover test, a small intermittent deviation is detected, may a single cover test be required for confirmation of control.

Assessing control of a deviation is an important part of orthoptic investigation. We hope by standardising the technique of performing a CBA more useful, repeatable information can be gained.

### References

1. Firth AY, Davis H. Distance stereoacuity in prism-induced convergence stress [letter]. *J AAPOS* 2008; **12**: 424–425.
2. British Orthoptic Society. Dictionary of common terms in orthoptic practice. London: British Orthoptic Society, 2001: 6.

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