

Insights into the Rare 'Demon Face Syndrome'

Description

Long thought to be **schizophrenia**, what a person with 'demon face syndrome' or **prosopometamorphopsia** (PMO) sees has been a mystery until now.

So far, only about 75 cases of PMO have been recorded. This condition makes people see faces in a very strange and often scary way.

However, one unique person, a 58-year-old man who contacted experts at Dartmouth, can see faces normally in pictures and on screens, but in real life, he sees frightening 'demon faces.'

This situation helped him and the researchers show, for the first time, what he sees when he looks at people's faces with PMO.

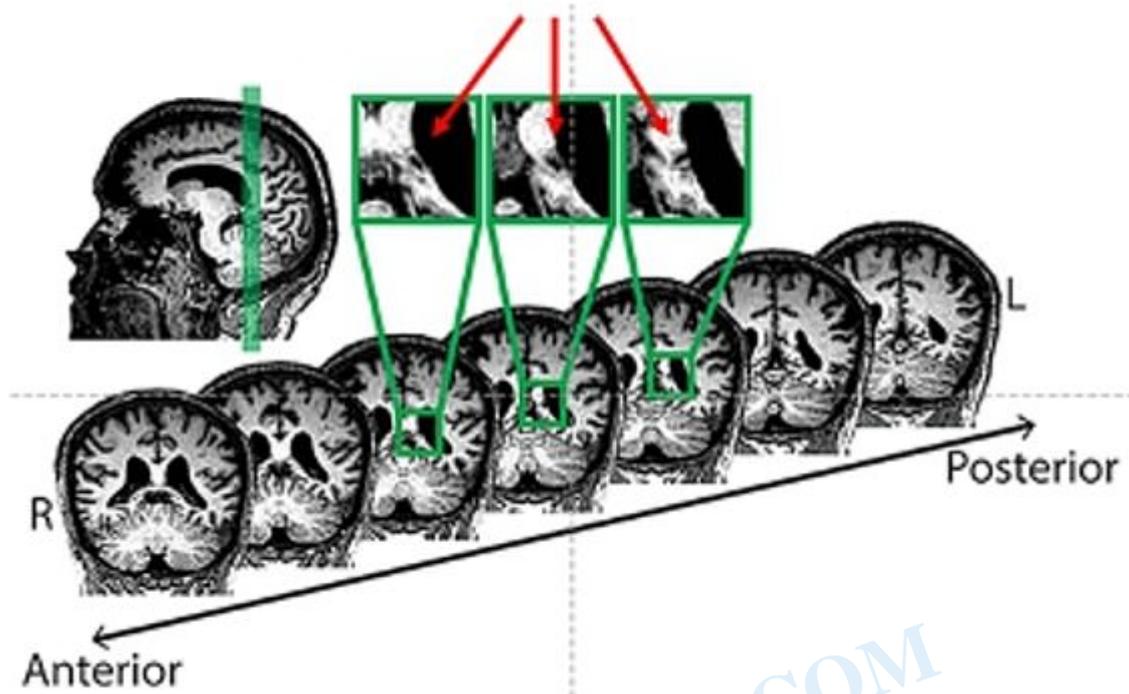
"Most stories about PMO are short reports on single cases," said Dartmouth Professor Brad Duchaine to DailyMail.com, "written by **neurologists** who met them in their work."

"Our study is very interesting," he said, "because we can be sure that the strange ways he sees faces really show what he experiences."

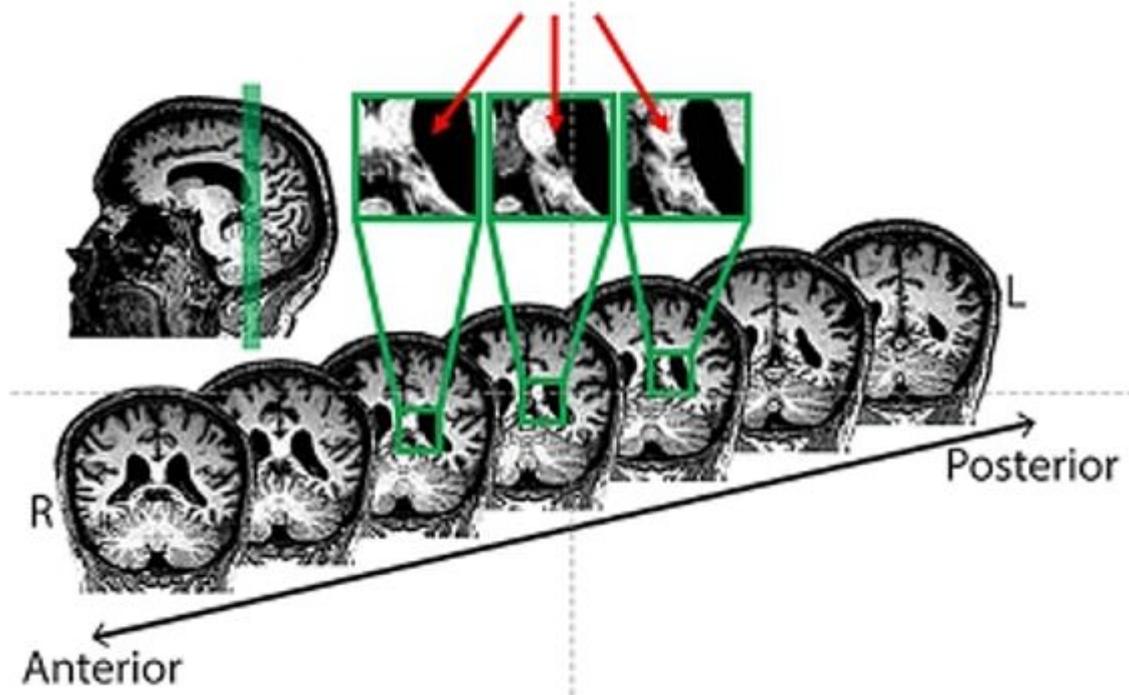




A special person with a type of 'demon face syndrome' can see faces normally in pictures and on screens but sees scary 'demon faces' when looking at people in real life. This situation helped scientists show, for the first time, how faces appear to someone with prosopometamorphopsia (PMO).



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The issues leading to PMO were often seen as damage or **lesions** in parts of the brain called the **occipital** and **temporal lobes**. These are near the areas that help us recognize faces. However, some cases of PMO are more mysterious and not easy to explain.

"People with PMO sometimes don't talk about their issues with seeing faces," said Duchaine, who helped write the new study. "They worry that others might think they have a mental health disorder. It's something many people don't really understand."

Duchaine and a student named Antônio Mellon worked with a 58-year-old man who has PMO. They did tests with him similar to what a police sketch artist might do.

The team from Dartmouth's Social Perception Lab started by taking a photo of someone's face. They then showed the man with PMO this photo on a screen and asked him to look at the person's real face and talk about any differences he noticed.





The way he sees distortions shows us that our experience of the world is created by our brain," Professor Brad Duchaine explained. By using feedback from a 58-year-old man with PMO, Duchaine and his colleague, Mellon, adjusted a photo to match the distorted faces he saw, resulting in goblin-like features. Their findings in *The Lancet* highlight how PMO affects perception.

This study opens doors to understanding PMO, a condition causing people to see distorted faces, which can be triggered by brain damage. Duchaine's team is exploring more cases, noting some people experience these distortions without a known cause or have had them their whole lives.

The condition, known since 1953, often gets misdiagnosed as schizophrenia, but it's related to how the brain processes visuals.

Vocabulary Insights:

- **Schizophrenia**: A mental health condition causing people to interpret reality abnormally.
- **Prosopometamorphopsia (PMO)**: A rare condition where individuals see distorted faces.
- **Dartmouth**: An Ivy League university known for its research contributions.
- **Neurologists**: Medical doctors specializing in the nervous system.
- **Damage** and **Lesions**: Physical harm to the brain affecting its function.
- **Occipital** and **Temporal Lobes**: Regions in the brain responsible for processing visual information and memory, respectively.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Schizophrenia** // (noun): A mental health condition causing people to interpret reality abnormally.
2. **Prosopometamorphopsia (PMO)** // (noun): A rare condition where individuals see distorted faces.
3. **Dartmouth** // (noun): An Ivy League university known for its research contributions.
4. **Neurologists** // (noun): Medical doctors specializing in the nervous system.
5. **Damage** // (noun): Physical harm to the brain affecting its function.
6. **Lesions** // (noun): Physical harm to the brain affecting its function.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. How does a virus spread from one person to another?

- Option: Through vaccination
- Option: Through transmission
- Option: Through isolation
- Option: Through quarantine

2. What is the term used for isolating people who have been exposed to a contagious disease to prevent its spread?

- Option: Confinement



- Option: Vaccination
- Option: Quarantine
- Option: Medication

3. Which mental disorder is characterized by abnormal social behavior and failure to understand what is real?

- Option: Depression
- Option: Anxiety
- Option: Schizophrenia
- Option: Bipolar disorder

4. What does HPAI stand for in the context of bird diseases?

- Option: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- Option: Healthy Poultry and Avian Infections
- Option: High-Affinity Poultry Antiviral Infection
- Option: Hybrid Protein And Infection

5. What term is commonly used to describe a romantic or sexual relationship outside of marriage?

- Option: Marital bond
- Option: Conjunction
- Option: Affair
- Option: Connection

6. What is the envelope of gases surrounding the Earth or another planet?

- Option: Biosphere
- Option: Atmosphere
- Option: Ionosphere
- Option: Troposphere

7. Which medical professionals specialize in diagnosing and treating disorders of the nervous system?

- Option: Orthopedists
- Option: Cardiologists
- Option: Neurologists
- Option: Dermatologists

8. Which term describes someone who is susceptible to physical or emotional harm?

- Option: Protected
- Option: Powerful
- Option: Vulnerable
- Option: Resilient

9. How would you describe someone who is fully awake and attentive to what is happening around them?

- Option: Drowsy



- Option: Asleep
- Option: Alert
- Option: Unconscious

10. What term refers to limits or borders that define a person's space physical or emotional?

- Option: Barriers
- Option: Boundaries
- Option: Frontiers
- Option: Territories

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Medical professionals may recommend _____ for individuals infected with contagious diseases.

12. It is natural for parents to have _____ for the safety and well-being of their children.

13. The strong _____ coming from the garbage bin indicated that it needed to be emptied.

14. Respecting someone's _____ means not intruding on their personal matters without permission.

15. In any relationship _____ for each other is crucial for maintaining harmony and understanding.

16. The storm caused extensive _____ to the crops leading to financial losses for the farmers.

17. Cats are known for their agility and the ability to make high _____ to reach elevated surfaces.

18. The neighbors were involved in a _____ over the property boundary causing tension



in the community.

19. The smell of burning rubber is extremely _____ and can cause headache and nausea.

20. The team captain was _____ victory after a hard-fought match against their rivals.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. A is a global outbreak of a disease that affects a large population across multiple countries or continents.
22. An is a marital arrangement where both partners agree to have extramarital relationships.
23. is a neuropsychological condition in which faces are perceived in a distorted manner.
24. A is a set of rules or instructions to help people carry out a task effectively and safely.
25. The car accident resulted in significant to the vehicle's front end.
26. Individuals with pre-existing health conditions are at of developing severe complications from certain illnesses.
27. The speaker captured the audience's with her engaging presentation on the topic.
28. is a mental disorder characterized by abnormalities in perception and expression of reality.
29. Skin are areas of damaged tissue resulting from injury or disease.
30. The security guard remained throughout the night to ensure the safety of the premises.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Through transmission 2. Quarantine 3. Schizophrenia 4. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza 5. Affair 6. Atmosphere 7. Neurologists 8. Vulnerable 9. Alert 10. Boundaries

Gap-Fill: 11. isolation 12. concern 13. odor 14. privacy 15. respect 16. damage 17. jumps 18. dispute 19. unpleasant 20. claiming

Matching sentence: 1. Pandemic 2. Open marriage 3. Prosopometamorphopsia (PMO) 4. Guideline 5. Damage 6. Higher Risk 7. Attention 8. Schizophrenia 9. Lesions 10. Alert



CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL3

POST TAG

1. Brain Lesions
2. Dartmouth Research
3. Demon Face Syndrome
4. Mental Health
5. Neurology
6. Occipital Lobe
7. Prosopometamorphopsia
8. Schizophrenia Misdiagnosis
9. Visual Perception

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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