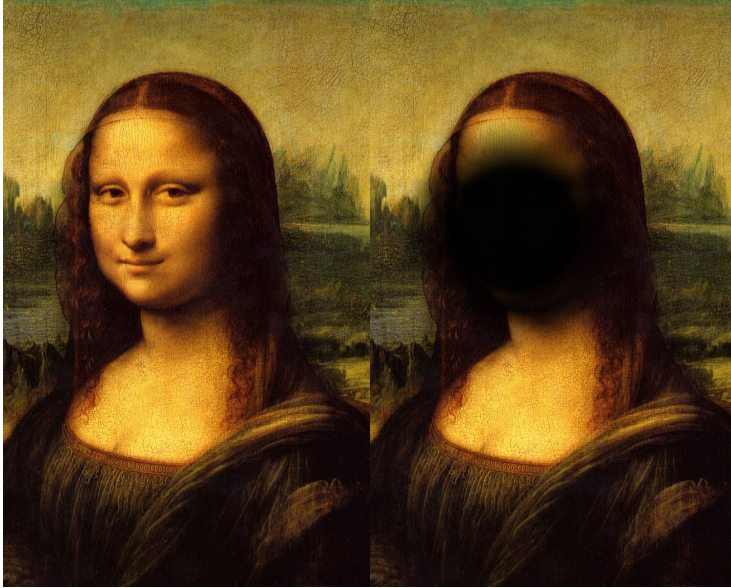




Quick Facts About Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy

What Is Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy?



Left: normal image. Right: illustration of central vision loss seen in patients with LHON.

- Leber Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON) results in optic nerve damage and painless bilateral central vision loss from a **genetic mutation in the DNA in mitochondria**, not the nucleus
- The mutation is passed along from a patient's mother
- Males are more commonly affected than females

How Can LHON Affect Me?

- **Central vision loss** (trouble reading and using the center of your vision)
- Typically affects **one eye first**, then the other eye within months, or simultaneously in both eyes
- Vision usually stabilizes by one year
- Although patients with LHON are usually legally blind, LHON does not cause complete blindness
- Women pass the genetic mutation to their children, who may or may not have vision loss

What Should I Do About LHON?

- A **neuro-ophthalmologist** checks your vision, side vision (visual fields) and optic nerves.
- Some patients may benefit from the use of the medication idebenone -- ask your doctor
- **Avoid smoking** and heavy **alcohol** use (especially if you are at risk of LHON but not yet affected)
- Ask your doctor if you qualify for any current clinical trials studying the use of a new treatment.

<https://www.nanosweb.org/lhon>



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