Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS)

Like many of you here at Parkview I have Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) so it isn’t a big surprise to me when I experience floaters and flashes. Lately though I have been noticing strange patterns like brightly-colored wallpaper or mosaic designs unlike anything in my surroundings. After searching a few websites that deal with ARMD-related conditions, I discovered a phenomenon that I had never heard of called Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS).

One website explained that when the eye fails to tell the brain what to see the brain “gets bored” and creates its own image. That’s why those who have CBS “see” pictures, designs, people, animals, objects etc…that aren’t really there. And it also assures those of us who experience this kind of hallucination that we aren’t crazy. What a relief that has been to me.

I thought that the information contained in the articles listed below might be helpful to you. By all means, take the advice of professionals and make an appointment with your eye care specialist if you experience this or any other change in your eyesight.

For information regarding ARMD-related CBS visit the websites below.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

VisionAware
visionaware.org/info/your-eye-condition/guide-to-eye-conditions/charles-bonnet-syndrome/124