Figure. A combination of watercolor painting and ink drawing. Ordinarily only one figure is seen at a given instant. Hallucinations usually take the form of a person or head, and the eyes and mouth are typically grossly distorted. Hallucinations occur in vivid color and, despite their appearance, are not threatening.

Visual hallucinations in PD

Steven J. Frucht, MD, Lorin Bernsohn, New York, NY

A 74-year-old man developed idiopathic PD at age 55 years. He was treated with levodopa, dopamine agonists, entacapone, and amantadine. At age 72 years, he developed transient visual hallucinations requiring the addition of low-dose quetiapine to his treatment. Hallucinations were episodic and fleeting, lasted seconds, and unaccompanied by paranoia, delusions, REM-sleep behavior disorder,

or dementia. Hallucinations occurred throughout the day and were not worse in the evening or triggered by falling asleep or waking. An avid painter and accomplished artist, he was asked to represent his visual hallucinations so that others might better understand his experience. The work (figure), a montage of individual images experienced over time, vividly captures the experience of visual hallucinations in PD.¹

1. Fenelon G, Mahieux F, Huon R, Ziegler M. Hallucinations in Parkinson's disease. *Brain* 2000;123:733-745.

See also page 1979

Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Steven J. Frucht, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Department of Neurology, 710 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032; e-mail: sf216@columbia.edu

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