**Objective:** To describe formed visual hallucinations in posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES).

**Background:** PRES is a clinical-radiologic syndrome of acute headaches, encephalopathy, seizures, and visual disturbances that has characteristic MRI findings. It is caused by breakdown of the blood-brain barrier, often from an abrupt rise in blood pressure. It is distinct from a stroke or cerebral hypoperfusion. Formed visual hallucinations have not previously been described in this condition.

**Design/Methods—Case Report:** A 55-year-old RH hypertensive man with diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, vitreous hemorrhage, and cataracts (HM, 20/60), developed a headache and went to sleep. When awakened two hours later he was confused. He vomited. He went to the hospital. He had a focal seizure in the ambulance. In the ER his blood pressure was 216/94. He did not answer questions. He had two more seizures and was confused and lethargic. His blood pressure was reduced and his seizures controlled. When he awoke the next day he reported unchanged visual acuity and formed visual hallucinations. He saw mice and bugs on the floor, sheets of blood with each phlebotomy attempt, and a voluptuous woman with a dragon coming out of her mouth. Although he knew these images were not real, they frightened him.

FLAIR images on his first MRI showed linear bright lesions in the occipital cortex and gray matter swelling consistent with PRES. The second MRI three days later showed these lesions largely resolved. The patient remained alert and seizure-free, but his hallucinations persisted.

**Results:** MRI confirmed the diagnosis of PRES.

**Conclusion:** Together, pre-existing vision loss from eye disease and blood-brain barrier disruption from PRES caused this patient’s visual hallucinations. PRES may precipitate Charles Bonnet syndrome in patients with poor vision.

**References:**


**Keywords:** posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome, hallucinations, PRES