

RESTORING SIGHT TO THE BLIND
Virtual Reality Computer Simulation of Visual Prosthesis

Information for Participants

What? We would like you to perform a simple task in front of a computer monitor.

Why? We will use your performance on this task to help design a future visual prosthesis to restore sight to the blind.

Who? John Pezaris, Ph.D., is in charge of this research project. He can answer any questions. You can contact him at 617-643-5313.

How? We will ask you to sit in front of a computer monitor with your head against a wooden frame. We will aim a video camera at one of your eyes to measure your eye position. Then, we will then ask you to play a simple video game where you will be repeatedly shown first a letter that may be a little hard to recognize, and then two letters that are easy to see. We ask that you tell us what the first letter is by looking at the later letter that matches. Only one will match, and the letters will change each time around. There will be times when the game will be very easy, and times where you will have to guess. Guessing is OK. If you make a mistake, do not worry, just keep going. It will take about an hour to finish. If you want to split your time into two or three sessions, that is OK. If you want to stop at any time, that is OK, too.

Payment? There is no payment for participating in this study. If you spent money to get here by MBTA or to park, we will reimburse you for that.

Results? We are collecting this data for research purposes only. We will not provide you or anyone else your specific results. We will combine your results with the results of all other participants in a totally anonymous way.

Risks? There are no risks from participating in this research beyond sitting in front of a

computer monitor for about an hour.

Benefits? You will not directly benefit from being in this study. Our research will advance medical knowledge about visual prosthetics.

Privacy? You will be given a fictitious name by the study staff. Your real name will never appear with any of your data. We are not going to be looking at your medical records.

Problems? If you have complaints or concerns about the research, you can call the study staff (see above) or the Institutional Review Board that oversees research at MGH at 857-282-1900.