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The World In Brief: Eye Implant Helps Blind People See Again

The Economist

... An eye implant helped nearly 30 blind people see again, according to a study published in The New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. The implant, inserted beneath the retina, replicates cells degraded by age-related macular degeneration, the most common form of blindness in old people. ...

10/22/2025

Vision Restored Using Prosthetic Retinal Implant

The New York Times

... In a study published Monday in The New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel, University of Pittsburgh], vision in 27 out of 32 participants improved so much that they could read with their artificial retinas. ...

10/20/2025

Scientists invent eye implant to help blind patients see again

Financial Times

... "It's the first time that any attempt at vision restoration has achieved such results in a large number of patients," said José-Alain Sahel, senior author of the study and chair of the ophthalmology department at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "More than 80 per cent of the patients were able to read letters and words, and some of them are reading pages in a book."...

10/20/2025

Electronic Eye Implant Restored Vision in Patients With Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Smithsonian Magazine

... "I don't think we'll ever be able to restore full 20/20 vision with the implant alone, but we are investigating tricks that could further improve people's quality of life and take them above the threshold for legal blindness," says José-Alain Sahel, an ophthalmologist at the University of Pittsburgh who co-led the trial, in a statement. "One of the main requests we hear from patients is to be able to recognize faces and emotions again, and that's something we're working toward."

...

10/20/2025

Retinal implant reverses common age-related blindness

Reuters

... "The benefits far outweighed the adverse effects," said senior author Dr. José-Alain Sahel from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. "This is the first time that a system has enabled patients who have lost their central vision to read words and even sentences again, while preserving their peripheral vision." ...

10/22/2025

With a tiny eye implant and special glasses, some legally blind patients can read again

NBC News

People with a leading cause of blindness were able to read again thanks to a tiny wireless chip implanted in the back of the eye and specialized augmented glasses, according to study results published Monday in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/20/2025

Tiny eye implant, special glasses help some legally blind patients read again

CBS News

Microchips implanted into the back of the eyes of legally blind patients have helped some of them read again, according to a new study published Monday [by Dr. José-Alain Sahel of the

University of Pittsburgh and other authors]. ...

10/20/2025

Electronic eye implant allows legally blind to see again

ABC News

An electronic eye implant thinner than a strand of human hair is raising hope for millions of older people struggling with vision loss. ... According to newly published medical findings [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], 84% of the studies participants have regained functional sight. ...

10/21/2025

Life-changing eye implant helps blind patients read again

BBC News

... For the research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coathored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], 38 patients with geographic atrophy in five European countries took part in the trial of the Prima implant, which is made by California biotech Science Corporation. ...

10/20/2025

Experts hail 'remarkable' success of electronic implant in restoring sight

The Guardian

... The trial [coauthored by José-Alain Sahel, University of Pittsburgh] found 84% of participants were once again able to read letters, numbers and words after being fitted with the implant, called the Prima device. ...

10/20/2025

Science Corp.'s retinal implant restores some vision in patients with macular degeneration

Fierce Biotech

... The trial marks “the first time that an attempt at vision restoration in these cases has achieved results – and in such a large number of patients,” José-Alain Sahel, M.D., a co-author of the study, said in an announcement. Sahel, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh and Sorbonne University in Paris, said some of the patients are reading pages in a book. ...

10/21/2025

This retina implant lets people with vision loss do a crossword puzzle

MIT Technology Review

... “The magnitude of the effect is what’s notable,” says José-Alain Sahel, a University of Pittsburgh vision scientist who led testing of the system, which is called PRIMA. “There’s a patient in the UK and she is reading the pages of a regular book, which is unprecedented.” ...

10/20/2025

Eye implant and high-tech glasses restore vision lost to age

New Scientist

... “When you watch them starting to read letters and then words, it’s an increasing joy on both sides. I recollect one patient telling me: ‘I thought my eyes were dead and now they are alive again’,” says team member José-Alain Sahel at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in Pennsylvania. ...

10/20/2025

A Neuralink Rival Says Its Eye Implant Restored Vision in Blind People

WIRED Magazine

... [S]ome study participants can now see well enough to read from a book, play cards, and fill in a crossword puzzle despite being legally blind. Science Corporation, the California-based brain-computer interface company developing the implant, announced the preliminary results this week [in a New England Journal of Medicine study coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel].

10/25/2024

Tiny chip restores vision, hope for those with sight loss

Deutsche Welle (Germany)

... A healthy eye can 'see' by receiving light from the outside world and converting it into electrical signals that are sent via the optic nerve into the brain for interpretation. Macular degeneration reduces the eye's ability to do this. The solution of implanting a pinhead-sized chip into the retina that can compensate for this deterioration inspired Daniel Palanker, an ophthalmologist at Stanford University, US. He collaborated with French eye expert José-Alain Sahel, based at the Pittsburgh School of Medicine, on developing the technology. ...

10/21/2025

Con gafas especiales y un implante ocular pacientes con degeneración macular pueden volver a leer

La Opinión

Un reciente estudio publicado en el New England Journal of Medicine [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] propone un enfoque innovador para las personas con degeneración macular relacionada con la edad, utilizando un pequeño chip implantado para restaurar parte de la visión perdida. ...

10/21/2025

New retinal implant restores vision in patients with irreversible blindness

IANS (Indo-Asian News Service)

... “It’s the first time that any attempt at vision restoration has achieved such results in a large number of patients,” said José-Alain Sahel, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Medicine, US. ...

10/20/2025

People with blindness can read again after retinal implant

Nature

... The clinical trial [coauthored by University of Pittsburgh's Dr. José-Alain Sahel], which is described today in The New England Journal of Medicine, involved 38 people with advanced AMD whose retinas had degenerated severely. ...

10/19/2025

Brain chip startup restores vision loss, overtaking Neuralink

The Independent (US)

... The technology was tested on 38 participants in a clinical trial, with over 80 per cent of the patients experiencing a “clinically meaningful improvement” after 12 months of use, according to the researchers [including Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/21/2025

What is Prima? The device helping those with vision loss to read again

The Independent (UK)

... The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], show 84 per cent of patients were able to read letters, numbers and words while using Prima, and on average, could read five lines on a vision chart. Before the device was fitted, some patients could not even see the chart. ...

10/20/2025

Woman who lost vision can read again after ‘life-changing’ clinical trial

The Independent (UK)

A woman who described herself as an “avid bookworm” before losing her sight is able to read again after taking part in a world-first study [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/20/2025

Vision restored in blind patients with revolutionary microchip

The Times

... The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], show that 84 per cent of patients on the trial could read letters, numbers and words using the prosthetic vision within one year of the operation. ...

Experimental eye implant offers new hope for blindness caused by AMD

Scripps News

... Researchers [including Dr. José-Alain Sahel] tested a new device called the PRIMA system, which pairs a retinal implant that converts light into electrical signals with special glasses that project infrared light onto the device. This effectively bypasses damaged cells in the central retina, researchers say. ...

10/21/2025

Dozens of blind people can see thanks to revolutionary new microchip

New York Post

... Several patients in a revolutionary clinical trial [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] regained their ability to read when they received an electronic eye implant that's paired with augmented reality glasses. ...

10/20/2025

Retinal Implant Helps Restore Vision in Macular Degeneration Patients

Inside Precision Medicine

A photovoltaic implant in the retina combined with special glasses that link up with the implant electronically significantly improved vision in people with vision loss due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Writing in the New England Journal of Medicine, the authors [including University of Pittsburgh's Dr. José-Alain Sahel] report that 26 out of 32 patients who were followed up a year after implantation had regained the ability to read. ...

10/20/2025

The chip that could cure blindness: 'Pioneering' device the size of a grain of SAND restores reading vision to people with sight-loss

Daily Mail

... But the new findings, published in The New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], pave the way for seeking approval to market the device, which is the first to enable people to read letters, numbers and words through an eye that had lost its sight. ...

10/20/2025

Blind patients able to read again thanks to tiny chip inserted in eye

The Daily Mirror

... The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], suggest 84% of patients on the trial were able to read letters, numbers and words while using Prima, and on average, could read five lines on a vision chart. Before the device was fitted, some could not even see the chart. ...

10/20/2025

London hospital hails 'life-changing' breakthrough for blind as eye implant helps patients see again

The London Standard

... The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] suggest 84% of patients on the trial were able to read letters, numbers and words

while using Prima, and on average, could read five lines on a vision chart. Before the device was fitted, some could not even see the chart. ...

10/21/2025

Retinal Implant-Eyeglasses Combination Improved Vision in Geographic Atrophy

MedPage Today

The PRIMA system combining a subretinal photovoltaic implant and eyeglasses that project near-infrared light to the implant significantly improved vision in patients with geographic atrophy due to age-related macular degeneration, according to an open-label, single-group, prospective trial [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/21/2025

Stanford's tiny eye chip helps the blind see again

ScienceDaily

A tiny wireless chip placed at the back of the eye, combined with a pair of advanced smart glasses, has partially restored vision to people suffering from an advanced form of age-related macular degeneration. In a clinical study led by Stanford Medicine and international collaborators [including University of Pittsburgh's Dr. José-Alain Sahel], 27 of the 32 participants regained the ability to read within a year of receiving the implant. ...

10/22/2025

New eye implants combined with augmented-reality glasses help blind people read again in small trial

Live Science

A surgically implanted chip and augmented-reality glasses are helping some people who have lost sight to read again. In a small trial, about 80% of people who had lost vision due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) were able to read letters and words a year after receiving the treatment, according to a study published Monday (Oct. 20) in The New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/21/2025

Tiny Eye Chip Lets Blind Patients Read Again

Science Blog

A wireless implant no bigger than a grain of rice has restored reading vision to people who had lost their central sight to macular degeneration, a condition that affects over 5 million people worldwide and ranks as the leading cause of irreversible blindness in older adults. In a clinical trial [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] that wrapped up this month, 27 out of 32 participants could read books, food labels, and subway signs a year after receiving the device. ...

10/20/2025

Blind patients read again with smart glasses-linked eye implant

The Verge

... The study [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] was published Monday in The New England Journal of Medicine, and researchers report that patients could see well enough using the technology to fill out crossword puzzles and read regular books again. ...

10/20/2025

Electronic eye implant allows blind patients to regain sight

Sky News

... The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel], suggest 84% of patients in the trial were able to read letters, numbers and words while using Prima. On average, they could read five lines on a vision chart, whereas before the device was fitted, some could not even see the chart. ...

10/20/2025

Ex-Neuralink Exec's New Startup Is Tackling Blindness—and Winning

Inc.

... The trial [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] assessed 32 people over the age of 60 who had had the Prima implant for at least a year. They found that after 12 months with the implant, Prima had meaningfully restored vision in 26 participants, giving them back the ability to read words, numbers, and letters. ...

10/20/2025

Bionic Retina Lets Blind Patients Read Again

Newser

... A new prosthetic retinal implant has restored limited vision to people suffering from an advanced form of macular degeneration, allowing some who were nearly blind to read again, according to a study published Monday in the New England Journal of Medicine [and coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel]. ...

10/20/2025

Blind can see again thanks to revolutionary new eye implant

Talker

Blind people have been able to read again thanks to a tiny eye implant half as thick as a human hair. The pioneering device paired with augmented-reality glasses restored vision to older people who had lost their sight as a result of an untreatable eye condition. The results of clinical trials [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] showed that 84% of participants were able to read letters, numbers and words using prosthetic vision through an eye that had previously lost its sight due to age-related macular degeneration (AMD). ...

10/20/2025

Retinal implant restores vision

Semafor

... A retinal implant has restored sight to people suffering the most common causes of blindness in the developed world. Age-related macular degeneration kills light-sensitive cells in the central part of the retina that allows detailed vision. A trial [coauthored by Dr. José-Alain Sahel] had 38 legally blind subjects wear glasses containing a camera, which would send signals to a 2mm-square receiver implanted in their eyeball; that receiver would convert those signals into nerve impulses. ...

10/22/2025