Reviewer’s report

Title: The Argus II prosthesis facilitates reaching and grasping tasks: a case series

Version: 1
Date: 8 February 2014

Reviewer: Sunir Garg

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

- Minor Essential Revisions
The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

Abstract, methods: consider changing “using six” to “consisting of six”

Abstract, methods: I would end the sentence “…in a randomized order.” Then start a new sentence “Scrambled consisted of a random”

Introduction, please change “commonest” to “most common”

Please change “…inner nuclei layer” to “inner nuclear”

Intro, para 3, please add location of Second Sight

Methods, exploration of reach to grasp ability: bottom of first paragraph: where does “2x eye condition” refer to?

- Discretionary Revisions
These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

Why did patient 7 decline participation in this trial?

Methods, Movements Quantified: It would be interesting to know how these parameters have been validated in other studies.

It would be interesting to have a photograph of the table/testing area.

Why were the scrambled results not different from the on position results? Perhaps it was due to sample size, or due to some other reason.

Discussion, para 2: Please elaborate if appropriate on the difficulties that the
patient had with the prosthesis.

Discussion paragraph 4: Please clarify “the prosthesis receives a signal, but the ‘Scrambled’ setting does not give full information of the ‘form’ of the object, just an indication that an object is present.” This seems to be a different definition of scrambled that is suggested in the introduction.

It would be helpful to expand the figure legends. The information will likely be new for a number of people and additional instruction on how to interpret the figures will be appreciated.

Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be forwarded to the authors and published on the site if the article is accepted.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received an Innovation Grant from Wills Eye Hospital to investigate the Active Subretinal Implant from Retina Implant AG, Tuebingen Germany.