Bionic Eyes

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Problem

- Impaired Vision:
 - Myopia: Nearsightedness
 - Macular degeneration: loss of central vision
 - Retinitis Pigmentosa:
 degeneration of the retina
 - Hyperopia: farsightedness
 - Presbyopia





Problem

- Impaired vision:
 - Astigmatism: light does not converge to a single focal point on retina



- Cataracts: clouding of lens



• [3]

Currently

- Topical treatments (eye-drops)
- Contacts^[1]
 - Small light-weight plastic devices
 - Correct refractive errors in vision
 - Float on layer of tears
- Cataract surgery

- Glasses:
 - Used to compensate defective vision

• LASIK



Possible Solutions

• Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System

• Telescoping Lens

• Ocumetics Bionic Lens



Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System

- Designed for those with degenerative eye disease (i.e. retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration)
- Takes place of damaged photoreceptors
- Consists of 5 parts:
 - Digital camera
 - Video-processing micro-chip
 - Radio transmitter
 - Radio receiver
 - Retinal implant







Argus II

- Has been implanted into 6 subjects
- New versions
 - more electrodes = greater image resolution
- Estimated cost \$30,000
- Third version has 1000 electrodes on implant
 Ability for facial recognition

Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System

Advantages

- Can aid in virtual reality simulations
 - Combat
 - Flight
- Can monitor a persons health
- Can correct vision impairments

Disadvantages

- Limited battery life
- Cant see full detailed images
- Still need guidance
- Bulky

Telescoping lens [7]

- Switches: normal and magnified vision
- 1mm thick
- Advantages:
 - Less bulky
 - Better job of collecting light
 - Less invasive
- Disadvantages:
 - Need to wear special glass with lens to switch on and off
- Working on hands-free infrared LED to activate functions from wink or blink

Ocumetics Bionic Lens

- Goal: to eliminate glasses ad contacts forever [10]
- Surgically inserted [8]
 - No anesthesia or overnight stay
 - Folded and placed in eye using a syringe with a saline solution
 - within 10 seconds, the lens unfolds by itself [10]
- Advantages:
 - No more cataracts
 - No more contacts, glasses
 - Safer than laser surgery
- Disadvantages:
 - Still unclear how the technology actually works. [10]
- Could be available as soon as 2017

FUTURE [11]

- Future versions serve as platform for applications i.e.
 - surfing the Internet on a virtual screen
 - immersing gamers in virtual worlds
 - monitoring patients' medical conditions.
- First obstacle:
 - resolving the fundamental incompatibility between
 - 1.) fabrication process for microchips
 - 2.)light-emitting diodes
 - 3.)types of polymers used for contact lenses.

FURTURE [11]

- rabbits tolerated the lenses well during 20-min fittings
- If safety and engineering issues are addressed:
 - future lens could be engineered to camouflage the circuitry
- Disadvantages:
 - questioned the ability of the display producing a sharp image
 - Power could be a limiation



Video

• Bionic lens

QUESTIONS?

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