

Live Search Kirby Bobby Joey



United Press International®

News. Analysis. Insight.™

[Advertise Online](#) | [Site Map](#) | [About UPI](#) | [Content Solutions](#) | [Support](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Affiliates](#)

[Español](#) | [English](#)



SEARCH:

- [Home](#) | [Video Update](#) | [Top News](#) | [Science](#) | [Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Sports](#) | [Quirks](#) | [Newspictures](#) | [Africa Monitoring](#) | [Marketplace](#) | [Merchandise Store](#) | [Security & Terrorism](#) | [International Intelligence](#) | [Energy](#) | [Consumer Health Daily](#)



The only car company this year with...



five J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality™ Model Awards.

[LEARN MORE](#)



NEWSTRACK - SCIENCE

Published: Jan. 18, 2006 at 5:42 PM | [E-mail Story](#) | [Print Preview](#) | [License](#)

Study: Microsaccades needed for vision

PHOENIX, Jan. 18 (UPI) -- Vision researchers at the Barrow Neurological Institute say they've resolved a 40-year dispute, finding microsaccades are necessary for vision.

The controversy focused on whether microsaccades -- rapid, but minute, eye movements occurring when a person's gaze is fixated -- are responsible for visibility.

Institute researchers resolved the debate by establishing microsaccades are indeed responsible for driving 80 percent of our visual experience.

Even when eyes are fixated on an object, they continue to make tiny movements called fixational eye movements.

"If our eye was perfectly still during fixation, the world would quickly fade from view due to the fact that the neurons in our eyes and brain quickly adapt to non-changing stimulation," said lead researcher Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde.

There are three types of fixational eye movements: microsaccades; drifts, which are slow curvy motions occurring between microsaccades; and tremors -- very fast, extremely small eye oscillations superimposed on drifts.

Martinez-Conde said it's crucial scientists know which eye movement is primarily responsible for vision, since we fixate our gaze 80 percent of the time.

The finding also brings new hope to patients who are blind much of the time due to fixational eye movement problems, she said.

[Del.icio.us](#) | [Digg it](#) | [RSS](#)

© Copyright 2006 United Press International. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be reproduced, redistributed, or manipulated in any form.

[Post A Comment](#)

Your Name

Your Email Address

Comments



Security Code

[Latest Stories](#) | [Most Popular](#) | [Popular Videos](#)

- [Greek official asks for patience on fires](#)
- [Missing woman's body found in river](#)
- [Wolves bring aspens back to Yellowstone](#)
- [Trial of HIV-prevention gel halted](#)
- [UPI NewsTrack Business](#)
- [Oil price within 1 cent of record](#)
- [Hasselhoff sues British newspaper group](#)
- [UPI NewsTrack Entertainment News](#)
- [Des Smyth leads Senior British Open](#)
- [Pacman Jones barred from training camp](#)
- [N.Y. man overburdened with credit cards](#)
- [Dentist wins battle over boar tusk prank](#)

Your Thoughts

No Comments