

1 Electronic Supplementary Material for  
2  
3 **Survival of Retinal Ganglion Cells After Damage of the Occipital Lobe in**  
4 **Humans is Activity Dependent**

5  
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26 **This PDF file includes:**

27 Supplementary text

28 Figs. S1 to S10

29 Tables S1 to S3

30 References for SI

## 31 **Materials and Methods**

32 **Participants.** We consented 35 stroke patients with frank or de-afferenting visual cortex lesions  
33 secondary to ischemic stroke in the territories of the posterior or middle cerebral arteries between  
34 April 2015 and July 2017. In order for a patient to be included in the analyses described in this  
35 article, s/he had to have at least one study visit with OCT that occurred  $\geq 5$  months post-stroke  
36 (Fig. S1). Fifteen participants completed one study visit at greater than 5 months post-stroke (4  
37 females, mean age = 63.67 years, mean time since stroke = 310 days, range time since stroke =  
38 174-675 days) and 10 of these participants also completed a study visit less than 2 months post-  
39 stroke (3 females, mean age = 64.9 years, first time point range = 1-54 days post-stroke, first  
40 time point mean = 10.8 days). Of note, participants 11-15 were also enrolled in an ongoing  
41 randomized double-blind pilot clinical trial (FLUORESCE, NCT02737930) to determine the  
42 efficacy of fluoxetine on visual recovery. At the time of this writing the authors were blinded to  
43 the group assignment.

44

45 **Measuring retinal ganglion cell complex thickness.** Retinal health is routinely assessed in  
46 the clinic using a non-invasive test called Spectral-Domain Optical Coherence Tomography  
47 (OCT) that generates a three-dimensional image of the retina. In order to assess the integrity of  
48 retinal ganglion cells, the OCT scan is either centered on the optic disc to measure the thickness  
49 of the retinal nerve fiber layer, which is comprised of the ganglion cell axons [1–6], or the fovea  
50 to measure the thickness of the ganglion cell complex (GCC) [5–8], which is comprised of the  
51 retinal ganglion cell and inner plexiform layers. Here, we focus on macular OCT as an index of  
52 ganglion cell health for two reasons: 1) GCC thinning is detected before retinal nerve fiber layer

53 thinning [7,8]; and 2) we wanted to capitalize on the topographic correspondence between the  
54 retinotopic organization of the macula and visual cortex [8].

55

56 With the exception of the right eye of four participants (6, 7, 8, and 15), thickness measurements  
57 from both eyes were averaged. The right eye of participant 6 was excluded due to poor scan  
58 quality at the final visit (quality was 5/10). The right eye of participant 7 was excluded due to  
59 nasal thickening. The right eye of participant 8 was excluded due to macular degeneration that  
60 was diagnosed after enrollment in the current study. The right eye of participant 15 was excluded  
61 due to chronic cystic macular edema. For those participants with monocular pathology or poor  
62 scan quality, only the GCC thickness from one eye at each time point was included in the  
63 analyses.

64

65 We tested the linear relation between GCC thickness and time since stroke because prior models  
66 of retinal ganglion cell degeneration suggest that the time range in our study is early enough to  
67 be approximated by a linear function; beyond 2 years after stroke, the relation is a negatively  
68 accelerating exponential decay function [2,3,9].

69

70 **MRI acquisition parameters and additional scans.** Scanning parameters at locations other  
71 than the primary outpatient site (Rochester Center for Brain Imaging) were chosen in  
72 consultation with an MR physicist and neuroradiologist in order to be equivalent to the primary  
73 scanning location. We further ensured that all scanners produced data with sufficient signal to  
74 noise by scanning healthy controls (n = 4) on multiple scanners using the same polar angle  
75 mapping protocol as was used in patients. Formal assessments of signal-to-noise across scanners

76 consisted of calculating temporal signal-to-noise (averaged across both runs of polar angle) and  
77 an analysis of the reproducibility of polar angle maps (Table S2, Fig. S7).

78

79 *Scanning Parameters for 3T Siemens Prisma:* MPRAGE (magnetization-prepared rapid  
80 acquisition gradient echo) pulse sequence (repetition time (TR) = 2530 ms, echo time (TE) =  
81 3.44 ms, flip angle = 7°, field of view (FOV) = 256 mm, matrix = 256 x 256 x 256, 1 x 1 x 1  
82 mm); BOLD fMRI echo planar imaging pulse sequence (TR = 2200ms, TE = 30ms, flip angle =  
83 90°, FOV = 256 mm, matrix 64 x 64, 33 axial ascending slices interleaved odd-even, isovoxel  
84 size 4 x 4 x 4 mm).

85

86 *Scanning Parameters for 3T Siemens Trim Trio:* MPRAGE (magnetization-prepared rapid  
87 acquisition gradient echo) pulse sequence (repetition time (TR) = 2530 ms, echo time (TE) =  
88 3.44 ms, flip angle = 7°, field of view (FOV) = 256 mm, matrix = 256 x 256 x 256, 1 x 1 x 1  
89 mm); BOLD fMRI echo planar imaging pulse sequence (TR = 2200 ms, TE = 30 ms, flip angle =  
90 90°, FOV = 256 mm, matrix 64 x 64, 33 axial ascending slices interleaved odd-even, isovoxel  
91 size 4 x 4 x 4 mm).

92

93 *Scanning Parameters for 3T GE 750W:* FSPGR BRAVO (fast spoiled gradient recalled  
94 acquisition in the steady state brain volume imaging) pulse sequence (TR = 8.5 ms, TE = 3.2 ms,  
95 flip angle = 12°, FOV = 256 mm, matrix = 256 x 256 x 256, 1 x 1 x 1 mm); BOLD fMRI gradient  
96 echo pulse sequence (TR = 2200 ms, TE = 30 ms, flip angle = 90°, FOV = 256 mm, matrix 64 x  
97 64, 33 axial ascending slices interleaved odd-even, isovoxel size 4 x 4 x 4 mm).

98

99 Participants completed one of three variants of the polar angle mapping experiment  
100 (Table S1): 1) Continuous: a slowly clockwise rotating wedge; 2) Sequential: a wedge that  
101 appeared at each location in a contiguous clockwise order every 2 TRs; or 3) Random: a wedge  
102 that randomly appeared every 2 TRs in one of 12 non-overlapping locations with the constraint  
103 that no two consecutive wedges were presented sequentially [10]. For each variant, each wedge  
104 location appeared 5 times per run.

105 In addition to two runs of the wedge stimulus and two runs of the full-field flickering  
106 checkerboard stimulus, two other scans were acquired at each time point but not analyzed herein:  
107 1) two runs with flickering checkerboard annuli to study eccentricity preferences in visual cortex,  
108 and 2) one run of resting state fMRI. At the final scan session, additional scans were collected on  
109 a subset of patients on an ad hoc basis as part of a different study.

110 Fixation was confirmed with an infrared eye tracker (Arrington ViewPoint, see Table S1  
111 for details about eye tracker use). Out of 25 fMRI sessions, only two fMRI sessions were  
112 excluded completely from subsequent analyses: the first time point fMRI from participant 5 was  
113 excluded due to technical difficulties and the last time point fMRI from participant 15 was  
114 excluded because the participant was asleep during both runs. In three other cases, one of the two  
115 polar angle runs was excluded because the participant fell asleep (Table S1).

116 Functional MRI data were analyzed with the *Brain Voyager* software package (Version  
117 2.8), in-house scripts drawing on the BVQX toolbox for MATLAB, and FreeSurfer  
118 (<http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/>) following the same procedures as prior papers from our  
119 group [11–13]. Preprocessing of the functional data included slice scan time correction (sinc  
120 interpolation), and motion correction with respect to the first volume of the first functional run.  
121 Functional data were co-registered to the first time point T1-weighted de-skulled image on an

122 individual basis in native space. BOLD and anatomical volumes were transformed into Talairach  
123 space [14]. No spatial smoothing was applied. Time course data from a given session were  
124 combined in a multi-run general linear model. The model consisted of 12 predictors for the 12  
125 wedge locations convolved with a standard 2-gamma hemodynamic response function and 6  
126 predictors of no interest to attract variance from volume-to-volume change in head position. Eye  
127 tracking data was used to exclude runs where the participant fell asleep or had poor fixation  
128 (Table S1).

129

130 **Definition of visually active voxels.** Participant-specific masks for early visual cortex were  
131 created by taking the intersection of the participant's anatomical mask of medial occipital lobe  
132 and the participant's functional map for visually responsive voxels using the full-field  
133 checkerboard stimulus. Specifically, an anatomical mask of medial occipital lobe was defined  
134 within one functional voxel from the right- or left-most border of the calcarine sulcus, as viewed  
135 in the coronal plane (Table S2). In the case of complete destruction of the calcarine sulcus by the  
136 stroke lesion, the intact hemisphere coordinates were flipped across the mid-sagittal line. In  
137 addition, a functional mask of visually-responsive cortex was independently defined based on the  
138 anterior-most border of visually-responsive voxels using the full-field checkerboard stimulus  
139 data from the last time point in each participant (contrast of checkerboard on > mean luminance  
140 baseline,  $p < 0.05$ ). We flipped the functional mask in each hemisphere across the mid-sagittal  
141 line and took the union of the two masks to generate two symmetrical visually-responsive  
142 cortical masks, separated by hemisphere, for each participant. We then took the intersection of  
143 the anatomical medial occipital lobe mask and the functional visually-responsive cortex mask to  
144 generate a medial occipital lobe visual cortex mask that was symmetric about the mid-sagittal

145 line; this mask was down sampled to  $3\text{mm}^3$  voxels to align with functional space. The number of  
146 significantly active voxels for each wedge location within the independently masked visually-  
147 responsive medial occipital lobe was used as a measure of neural representation of vision at each  
148 time point [15]. With these voxel counts, we tested the logarithmic relation between GCC  
149 thickness and the natural log of the number of active voxels based on initial visualization of the  
150 data (Fig. S9, wedges with a count of 0 were changed to 1 in order to take the logarithm).

151

152 **Lesion mapping.** The clinical T2 FLAIR or diffusion weighted scan collected in the acute  
153 stroke phase was used to draw a lesion mask for each patient, using Clusterize, a semi-automatic  
154 lesion segmentation toolbox for SPM [16]. The clinical T2 FLAIR or diffusion weighted scan  
155 was co-registered to the T1 anatomy collected at the first time point in each patient and the  
156 transformation matrix was applied to the lesion mask. In order to create the voxel-based lesion  
157 symptom maps in Fig. 2D, the change in GCC thickness for the upper and lower quadrant of the  
158 affected hemifield was calculated for each participant with an initial and a final OCT. Point  
159 biserial correlations were used to relate change in GCC thickness to the presence/absence of a  
160 lesion across the group of participants, at each voxel in the brain [17]. In order to increase power  
161 for the voxel-based lesion-symptom mapping analysis, all lesion masks were projected into the  
162 right hemisphere and all visually-affected hemifields were correspondingly projected into the left  
163 visual hemifield.

164

165 **Letter detection and identification task.** To test high contrast vision within the central 22.5  
166 degrees, we used a letter identification visual field test that has been previously published in our  
167 lab [12,18]. Briefly, black letters were presented one at a time on a mean luminance background

168 for 133 ms in one of 72 randomly-ordered locations (Fig. S10). With both eyes open, participants  
169 identified each letter out-loud as it was presented. Responses were recorded with a microphone.  
170 Correct identification was awarded 1 point, detection with incorrect identification was awarded  
171 0.5 points, and no detection (missed) was not awarded any points. Performance for the area of  
172 the visual field subtended by each wedge was calculated by averaging the performance for all  
173 letters presented in the area covered by that wedge, collapsed across eccentricity. There was no  
174 formal eye tracking when participants were tested in the hospital with the letter test; however,  
175 one experimenter watched the participant's eyes during the testing and noted any breaks from  
176 fixation. All outpatient visits were conducted in our lab with formal eye tracking (table mounted  
177 EyeLink 1000, desktop mode).

178

## 179 **Results**

### 180 **Size of lesion within early visual cortex is related to GCC thinning in stably blind**

181 **areas of the visual field.** It is likely that there is a relation between GCC thinning and lesion

182 size, as patients sustaining larger lesions may tend to have more early visual cortex or subcortical

183 damage, and thus a greater extent of retinal ganglion cell degeneration in the blind field. In line

184 with that expectation, we found that total lesion size was correlated with GCC thickness in stably

185 blind areas of the visual field ( $t(144) = -1.99$ ,  $p = 0.048$ , Fig. S5A). We separately tested how

186 lesion size in early visual cortex versus outside of early visual cortex is related to GCC thickness.

187 One possibility is that larger extrastriate lesions (lesion size outside the early visual cortex mask)

188 would be associated with greater GCC thinning, as such lesions may tend to affect the optic

189 radiations, which are closer along the visual pathway to the retina than primary visual cortex.

190 Another possibility is that lesion size in early visual cortex is most directly related to GCC



191 thinning. The results for areas of the retina that corresponded to stably blind areas of the visual  
192 field indicated no relation between GCC thickness and extra-striate lesion size ( $t(134.0) = -0.28$ ,  
193  $p = 0.78$ , Fig. S5B), and a significant correlation between early visual cortex lesion size and  
194 GCC thickness ( $t(134.0) = -4.42$ ,  $p \ll 0.001$ , Fig. S5C). We note that the lack of a relation  
195 between extra-striate lesion size and GCC thinning should be revisited with future studies  
196 explicitly designed to test this important issue. At a minimum though, these findings suggest  
197 lesion size in early visual cortex is directly related to GCC thinning.

198

199 **Number of blind voxels does not change over time.** When we considered the number of  
200 significantly active voxels for all participants and fMRI sessions, we found that the number of  
201 voxels did not change over time as a function of change in vision (stably blind versus recovered:  
202  $t(443.2) = 0.95$ ,  $p = 0.34$ ; stably blind versus unaffected:  $t(435.9) = 1.40$ ,  $p = 0.16$ ; recovered  
203 versus unaffected:  $t(439.6) = -0.03$ ,  $p = 0.97$ ) nor was there a main effect of time on the number  
204 of significantly active voxels ( $t(108.8) = -0.77$ ,  $p = 0.44$ ). Collapsing across all participants and  
205 time points, there was a significant difference in the number of active voxels representing stably  
206 blind versus unaffected wedges (mean stably blind = 55.2 voxels, mean unaffected = 110.2  
207 voxels,  $t(439.0) = 7.23$ ,  $p \ll 0.001$ ) and recovered versus unaffected wedges (mean recovered =  
208 74.1 voxels,  $t(446.0) = 3.51$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), but only a trend comparing stably blind and recovered  
209 wedges ( $t(445.7) = -1.73$ ,  $p = 0.08$ ).

210

211 **Relation between GCC thickness and visual cortex activity is robust to definition of**  
212 **blindness.** Since the raw total deviation values in what was defined as the blind field ranged  
213 from -32.67 dB to -6.33 dB, it is possible that blind wedges with high early visual cortex activity

214 are also those with less negative total deviations. If this were the case, then the significant  
215 relation that we observed between visual cortex activity and GCC thickness in the stably blind  
216 field may be due to the variability in total deviation in the blind field. Indeed, the correlation  
217 between final total deviation and visual cortex activity was significant for the stably blind field  
218 ( $t(123.0) = 3.66, p < 0.001$ ) but not recovered ( $t(123.0) = -0.49, p = 0.63$ ) or unaffected areas of  
219 the visual field ( $t(124.0) = -0.44, p = 0.66$ ). When we added final total deviation to the model,  
220 however, we found that the relation between early visual cortex activity and GCC thickness  
221 remained significant in the stably blind field ( $t(111.2) = 3.75, p < 0.001$ ), suggesting that greater  
222 visual cortex activity is associated with greater GCC thickness even for densely blind areas of  
223 the visual field.

224 We further tested whether our main finding was robust to the criterion used for defining  
225 blind wedges. We re-analyzed our data by classifying wedges as blind if the average sensitivity  
226 in that wedge was less than 10 dB. This definition of blindness was based on “The Guide for the  
227 Evaluation of Visual Impairment”, which defined blind visual field test locations as those with a  
228 sensitivity less than 10 dB [19] and a natural history study of visual recovery in stroke patients  
229 with homonymous visual field defects, which used Goldmann perimetry with varying sizes of 4e  
230 isopters (equivalent to a sensitivity of 10 dB on Humphrey perimetry) [20]. Using this alternative  
231 definition of blindness (sensitivity < 10dB) did not alter the main finding that there is a  
232 significant correlation at the final time point between visual cortex activity and retinal ganglion  
233 cell thickness that is specific to stably blind areas of the visual field (stably blind:  $t(124) = 2.85,$   
234  $p = 0.005$ ; recovered:  $t(124) = 0.21, p = 0.84$ ; unaffected:  $t(124) = -1.02, p = 0.31$ ). This  
235 alternative definition of blindness also did not alter the finding that initial visual cortex activity  
236 in response to stimulation of the original blind field could predict later GCC thinning (originally

237 blind:  $t(90.1) = 2.23$ ,  $p = 0.03$ ; unaffected:  $t(92.9) = 1.39$ ,  $p = 0.17$ .

238

## 239 **Discussion**

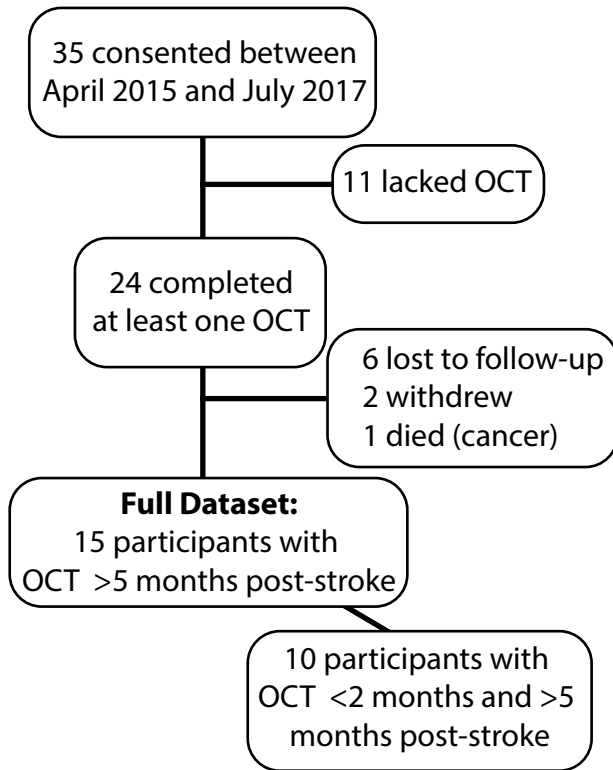
240 **Blind voxels.** To date, many fMRI studies of stroke patients have shown early visual cortex  
241 activity for stimuli presented in the blind field. In our study, more than half of the participants  
242 had at least 50 significantly active voxels for a wedge located in their initial blind field. We refer  
243 to such voxels as ‘blind voxels.’ Blind voxels maintained a clear retinotopic organization. Eye  
244 movements cannot explain this phenomenon, because fixation was enforced using an eye tracker  
245 (Table S1). Below we enumerate possible explanations for the existence of ‘blind voxels’.

- 246 • Spared islands of vision [21–24]. One concern that may be raised is that the clinical  
247 measure of vision (24-2 Humphrey perimetry) is a relatively coarse measure of visual  
248 ability, and there could thus be ‘islands’ of spared vision interspersed within the area of  
249 the visual defect. This is an important alternative to consider, as the area stimulated  
250 during the fMRI experiment was smaller than the area tested with Humphrey perimetry  
251 (radius of field of visual stimulation during fMRI =  $11.25^\circ$ ). We prospectively addressed  
252 this in the design of the study by having all participants also complete a letter detection  
253 and identification task with test locations that covered the same retinotopic coordinates as  
254 the fMRI wedge stimuli [12,18] (Fig. S10). GCC thickness was still significantly related  
255 to visual cortex activity for stimulation of the blind visual field when using performance  
256 on the letter detection and identification task as the measure of visual ability ( $t(111.7) =$   
257  $3.31$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ). This finding indicates that the activity-dependence of GCC thinning  
258 cannot be explained by residual vision.

- 259 • Neural feedback propagating from higher order visual areas [25], through inter-  
260 hemispheric transfer [26,27], or through mental imagery and visual illusions that drive  
261 activity in early visual cortex [28,29]. An important concern that may be raised is that  
262 participants are able to anticipate the next location of the retinotopic mapping stimulus,  
263 and thus drive activity in early visual areas based on expectations of where the stimulus  
264 will be (even if those visual areas do not receive direct inputs from the retina). However,  
265 we can decisively put this concern to rest because we used a random presentation scheme  
266 for the fMRI wedge stimuli specifically to reduce such anticipatory strategies and  
267 consequent feedback from higher-order visual areas to early visual cortex.
- 268 • As a final set of possibilities, we suggest that a combination of two factors may  
269 contribute to the phenomena of ‘blind voxels’. First, it could be that the information  
270 content of immediately peri-lesional areas is degraded such that while one can still detect  
271 visual cortex activity and this activity is sufficient to drive trophic support of retinal  
272 ganglion cells, the information driving the activity is too impoverished to support  
273 perception. Second, some lesions will disconnect early visual cortex from downstream  
274 regions (V2, V3, V4, etc.) – thus preventing visual information in primary visual cortex  
275 from being processed further.

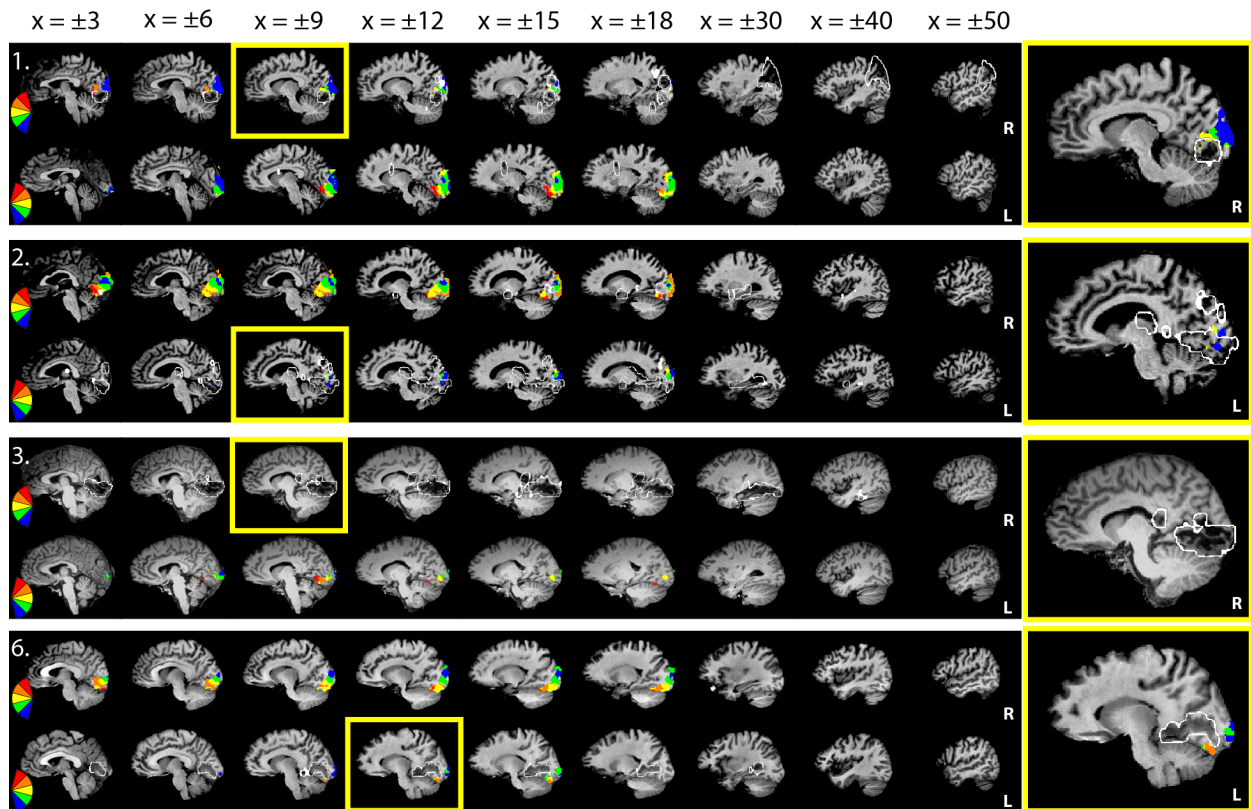
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277 **Figure S1: Participant recruitment.**

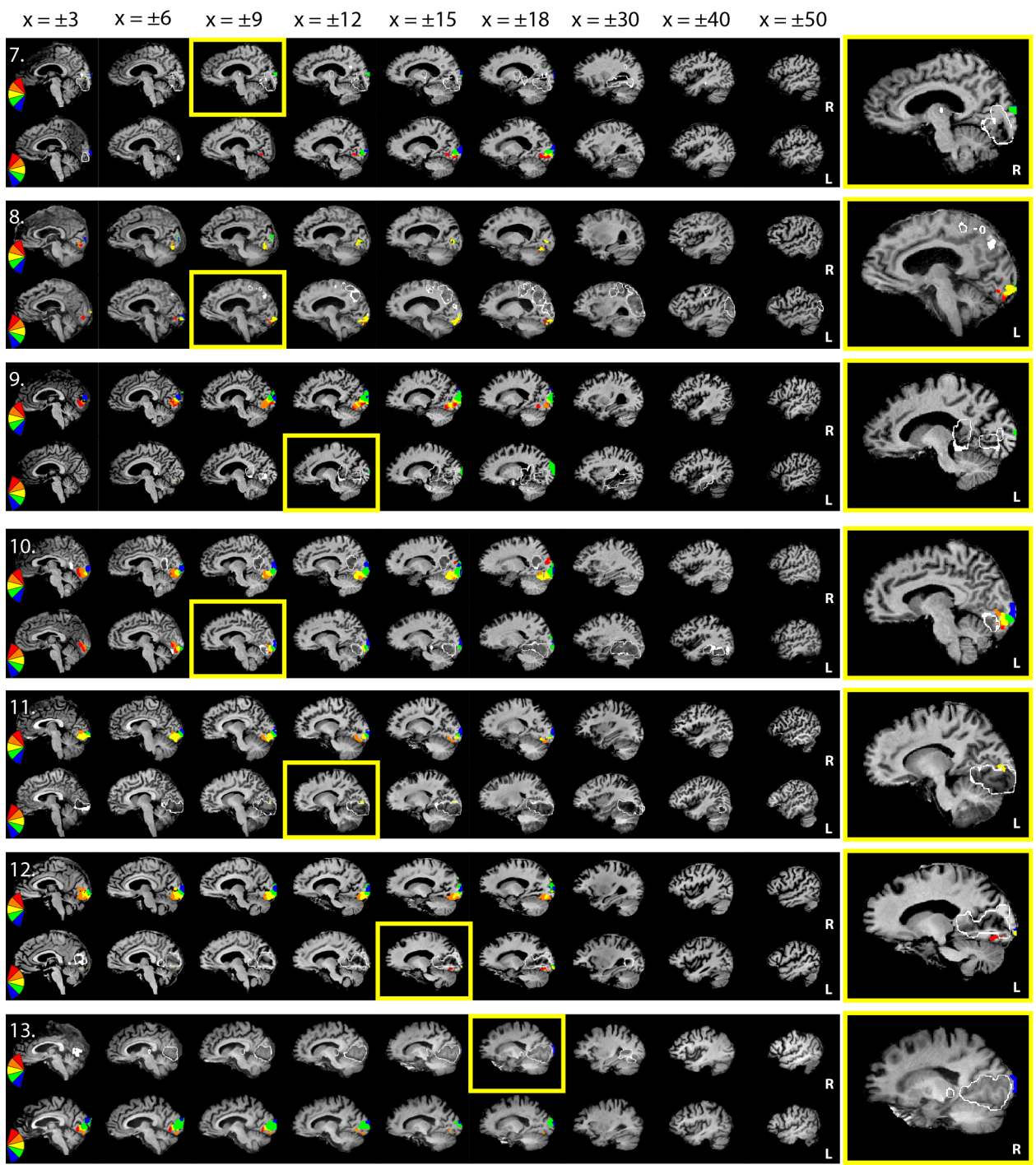


278

279 **Figure S2: fMRI results.** Interpolated winner maps of the retinotopic organization of visual  
 280 cortex, pseudocolored by the contralateral wedge that elicited the strongest response for a given  
 281 voxel, thresholded at  $p < 0.001$ , and masked by visually-responsive medial occipital lobe.  
 282 Lesions, as determined by the participant's acute clinical T2 FLAIR or DWI, are shown outlined  
 283 in white. Neural activity is overlaid on sagittal slices of each participant's T1 anatomy. The sole  
 284 time point is shown for participants 1 – 6 and initial time point is shown for participants 7 – 13.  
 285 In some cases, activity appears inside the lesion boundary (for example participant 2). This  
 286 discrepancy occurs because the clinical imaging used to construct the lesion boundary also  
 287 reflects edema that may or may not evolve into frank tissue damage. Careful inspection of the  
 288 underlying T1 anatomy (from a chronic time point) reveals that all regions of significant fMRI  
 289 activity overlie intact tissue. See Fig. 1 for participants 5, 14, and 15; participant 4 lacked any  
 290 fMRI data.



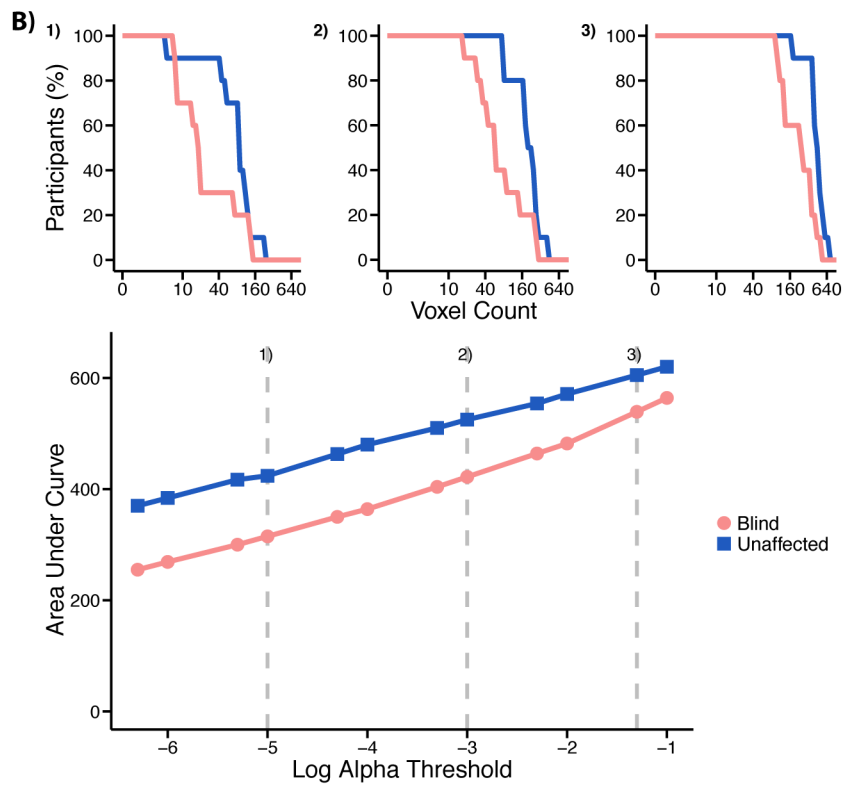
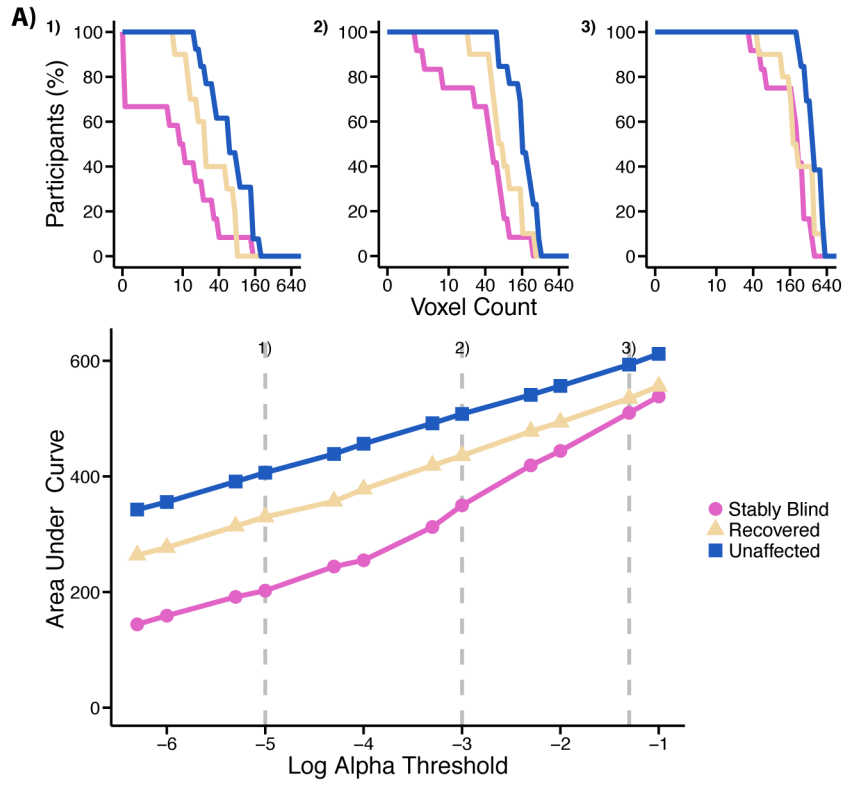
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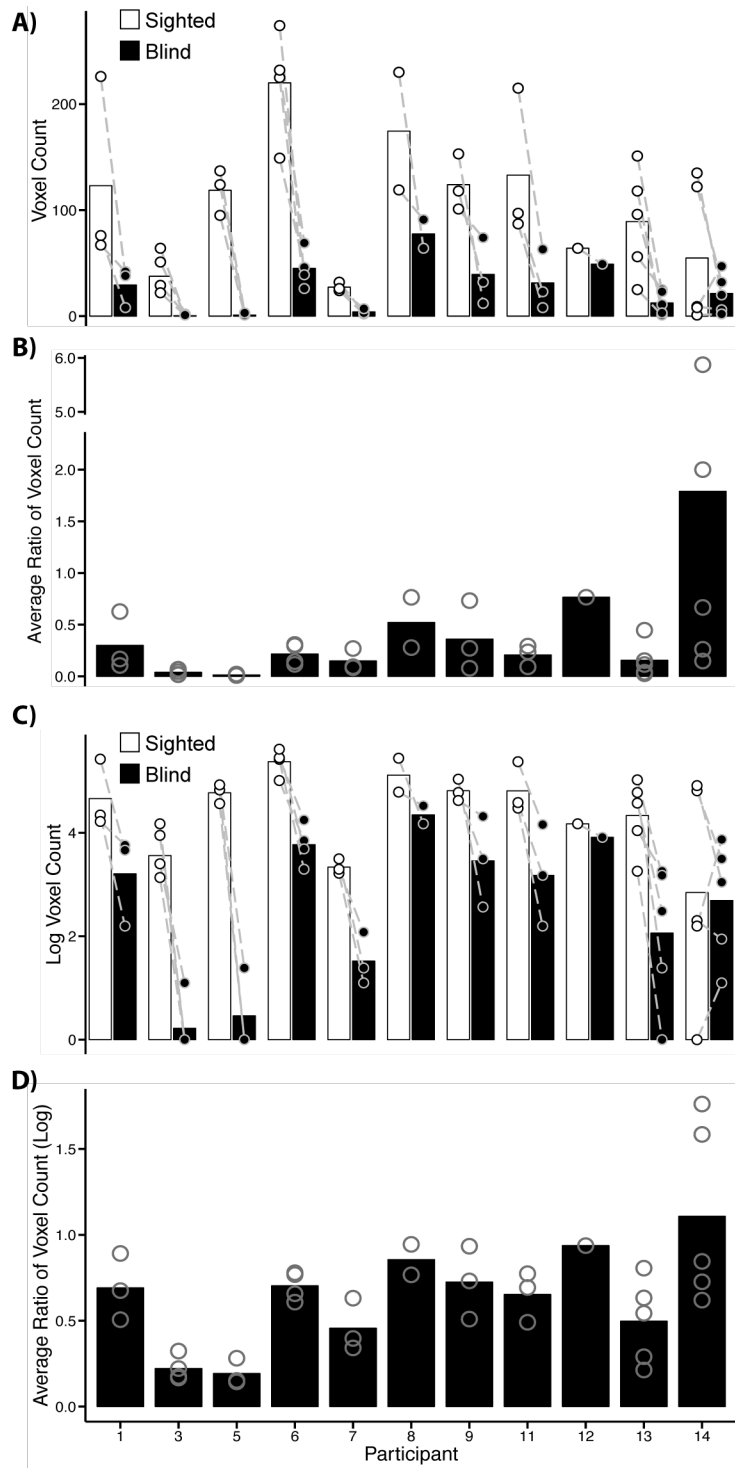
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293

294 **Figure S3: ‘Blind voxel’ phenomenon is present for a range of statistical thresholds**  
295 **for defining significantly active voxels.** Percent of participants with at least one wedge  
296 containing a certain number of significantly active voxels at varying alphas (1:  $p < 0.00001$ ; 2:  $p$   
297  $< 0.001$ ; 3:  $p < 0.05$ ). Lower panel shows area under the curves in the top panel as a function of  
298 change in vision and statistical threshold. For ease of viewing, alphas are plotted on a log scale  
299 (i.e.  $\alpha = 0.001$  is equal to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  and is therefore plotted on the x-axis at -3). A) Final fMRI  
300 binned by change in vision ( $n = 13$ ), and B) initial fMRI binned by initial vision ( $n = 10$ ). Pink  
301 circle – stably blind; yellow triangle – recovered; blue square – unaffected; red circle – blind at  
302 first time point.

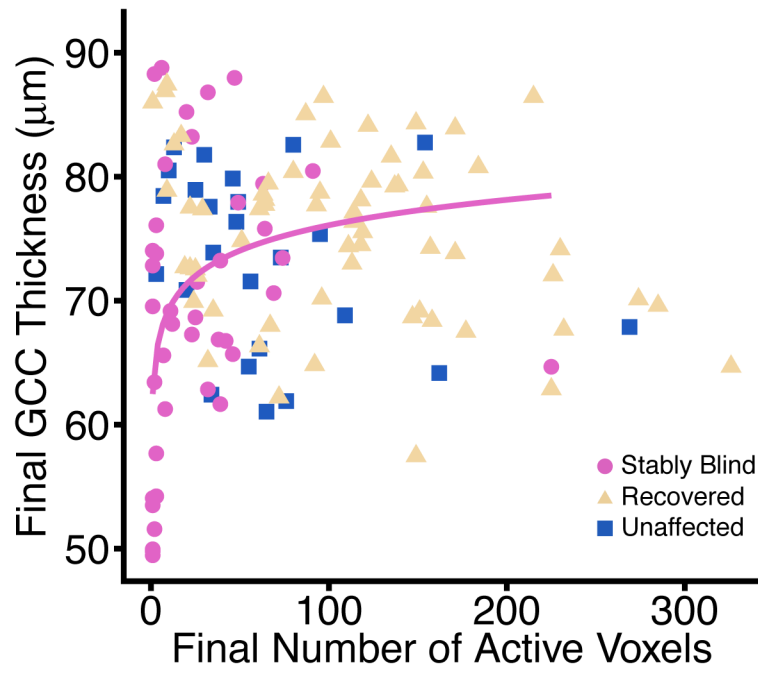




304 **Figure S4: Variance in final voxel counts across participants between the intact and**  
305 **lesioned hemispheres.** Comparisons of the number of significantly active voxels in each  
306 stably blind wedge in the lesioned hemisphere (black) versus the mirror image of each stably  
307 blind wedge (white) in the intact hemisphere. For example, if the wedge at 2 o'clock was stably  
308 blind then the voxel count at 2 o'clock in the lesioned left hemisphere would be normalized with  
309 respect to the voxel count at 10 o'clock in the unaffected right hemisphere. A) Average voxel  
310 counts, mirror image wedges connected with a dotted line. B) Average of the ratio between the  
311 number of active voxels for each stably blind wedge and its mirror image in the intact  
312 hemisphere; individual dots represent one mirror-image wedge-pair. C) Average of the log voxel  
313 counts; mirror image wedges connected with a dotted line. D) Average of the ratio between the  
314 log of the number of active voxels for each stably blind wedge and its mirror image in the intact  
315 hemisphere, individual dots represent one mirror-image wedge-pair. Participants 2 and 10  
316 excluded because they had bilateral lesions. Participant 4 did not have fMRI data.

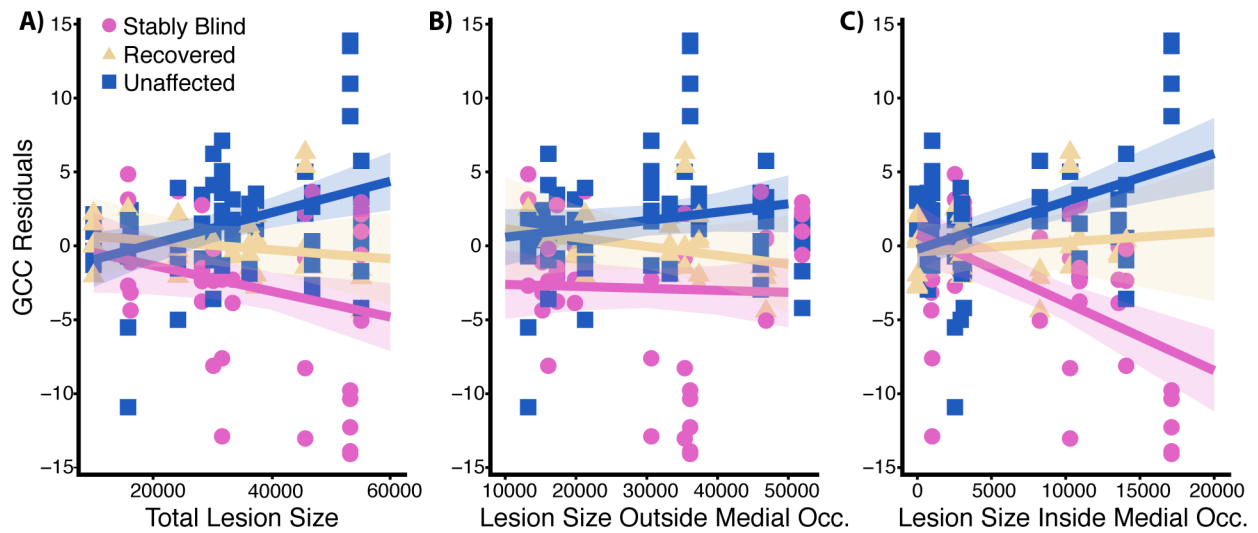


318 **Figure S5: Logarithmic relation between visual cortex activity and GCC thickness**  
319 **at the final time point for stably blind areas of the visual field.**



320

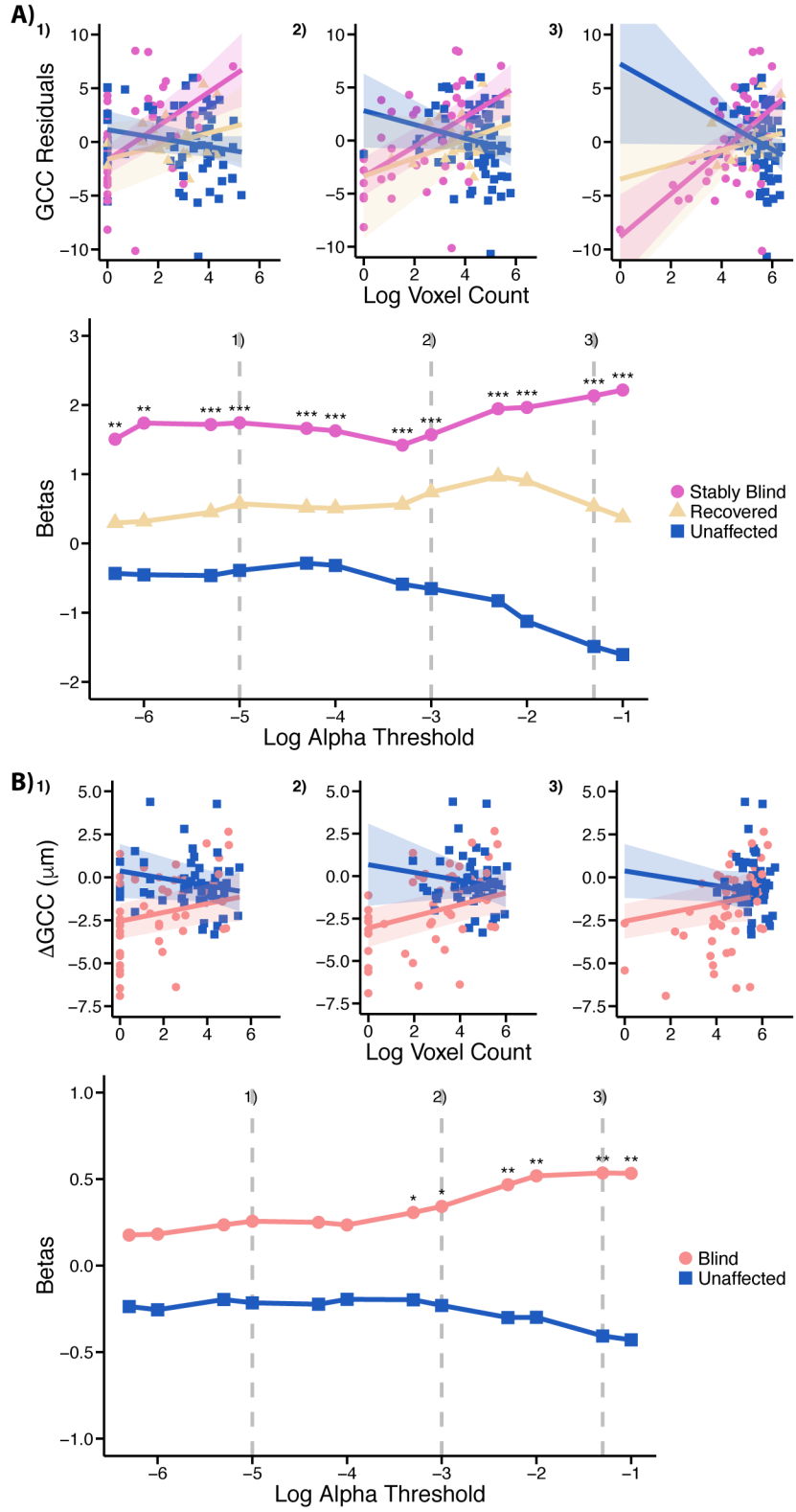
321 **Figure S6: GCC thickness of regions of the retina corresponding to the stably blind**  
322 **field are related to total lesion size and the size of the lesion within the medial**  
323 **occipital lobe.** Total lesion area (A) was subdivided into the component that was outside (B)  
324 versus inside (C) the early visual cortex medial occipital lobe mask used for all core analyses and  
325 correlated with GCC thickness, controlling for time since stroke. Y-axis is residuals of GCC  
326 thickness when controlling for time since stroke; n = 15; pink circle – stably blind; yellow  
327 triangle – recovered; blue square – unaffected.



328

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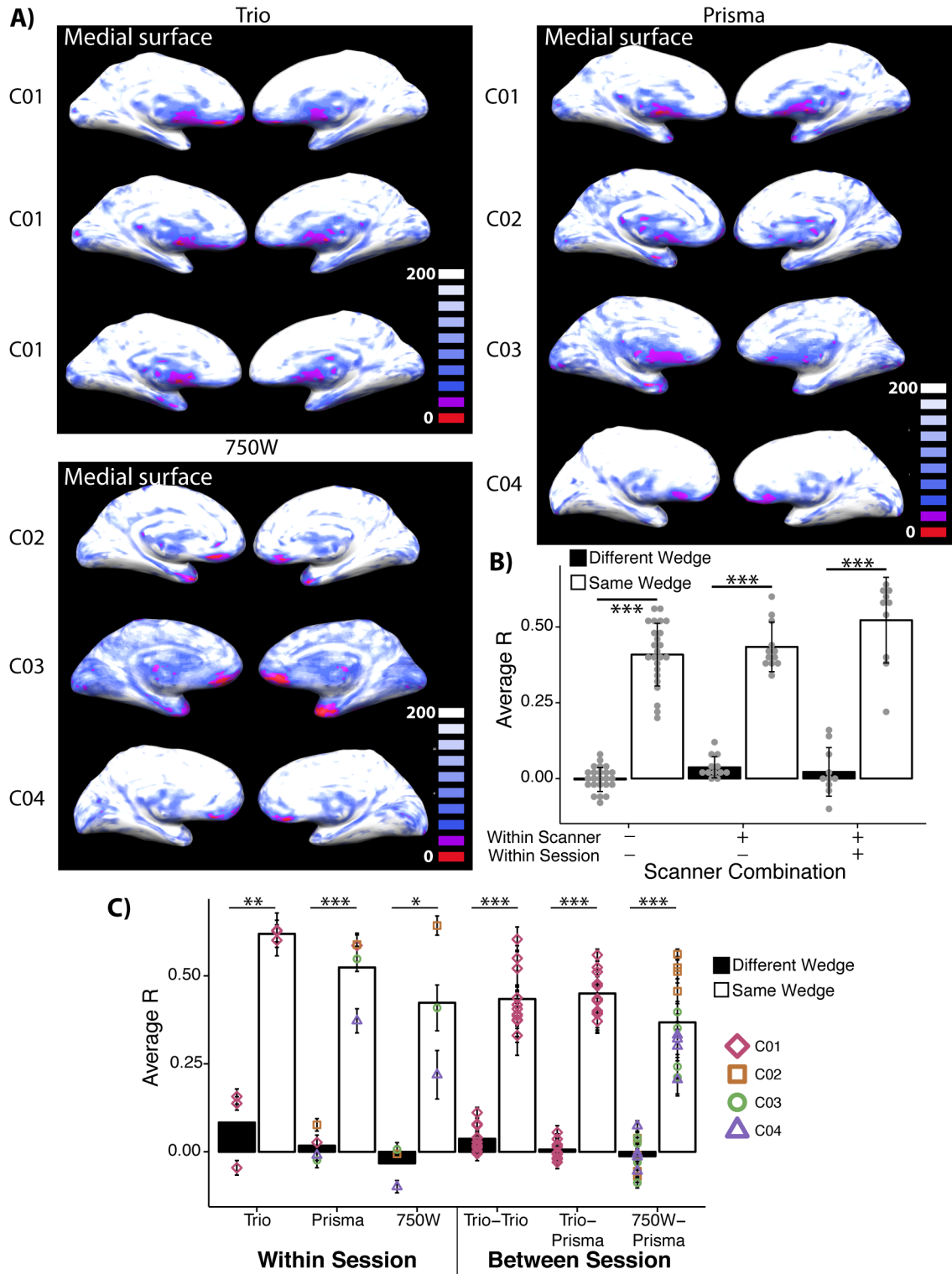
330 **Figure S7: GCC thickness is associated with visual cortex activity for a range of**  
331 **statistical thresholds for defining significantly active voxels.** GCC thickness (controlling  
332 for time since stroke and total lesion size) as a function of visual cortex activity and visual ability  
333 at varying statistical thresholds (1:  $p < 0.00001$ ; 2:  $p < 0.001$ ; 3:  $p < 0.05$ ). Lower panel shows  
334 slope of the fits in the top panel as a function of change in vision and statistical threshold. For  
335 ease of viewing, alphas are plotted on a log scale (i.e.  $\alpha = 0.001$  is equal to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  and is  
336 therefore plotted on the x-axis at -3). A) Final fMRI binned by change in vision ( $n = 13$ ), and B)  
337 initial fMRI binned by initial vision ( $n = 10$ ). Pink circle – stably blind; yellow triangle –  
338 recovered; blue square – unaffected; red circle – blind at first time point.  
339



341 **Figure S8: Comparison of scanners.** Two approaches were pursued to evaluate whether  
342 each scanner had sufficient signal-to-noise to support the core measures of neural function. A)  
343 temporal signal-to-noise ratios (TSNR) were calculated from two polar angle runs. Maps show  
344 the medial surface of four healthy control subjects scanned on three different 3T MRIs. Areas in  
345 blue/white have sufficient TSNR ( $TSNR > 40$ ) to detect statistically significant differences in the  
346 BOLD signal between two or more conditions [30,31]. Critically, all scanners have sufficient  
347 TSNR in our region of interest (medial occipital lobe). B) We then sought to evaluate whether  
348 there is equivalent reproducibility of retinotopic preferences across scanners. This was possible  
349 because all of the control/healthy participants completed 2 runs of polar angle mapping on each  
350 scanner. We used multivoxel pattern correlation over medial occipital cortex to compare the  
351 similarity of the same condition (wedge location) across the two runs (within participant) on the  
352 same scanner versus between two runs (again within the same participant) on two different  
353 scanners (or for the Trio-Trio comparison, the same scanner for two different sessions). In  
354 addition to computing similarity for each condition to itself (within and between scanners) we  
355 also computed the average between condition (dis)similarity between runs (again, always within  
356 participants). This analysis amounts to comparing the diagonal to off-diagonal values of a  
357 representational similarity matrix of all 12 wedge locations to all 12 wedge locations (always  
358 between runs, within participants, and either within or between scanners). White bars show the  
359 average of the within-condition correlations for all 12 wedges (wedge  $x >$  baseline) for two  
360 different runs (diagonal of the representational similarity matrix comparing contrast-weighted  $t$ -  
361 values for two different runs). Black bars show the average of the between-condition  
362 correlations among all 12 wedges (wedge  $x >$  baseline) for two different runs (off-diagonal of the  
363 representational similarity matrix). The average for individual participants are shown by the



364 dots. All scanner-run combinations show significantly greater within-condition correlations than  
365 between-condition correlations. C) Data from B expanded to show performance of individual  
366 scanner/session combinations. Importantly, all scanner/session combinations show significantly  
367 greater within-condition correlations than between-condition correlations, suggesting that even  
368 polar angle maps constructed from data on the same participant but on different scanners have  
369 sufficient sensitivity to reliably measure retinotopic preferences.



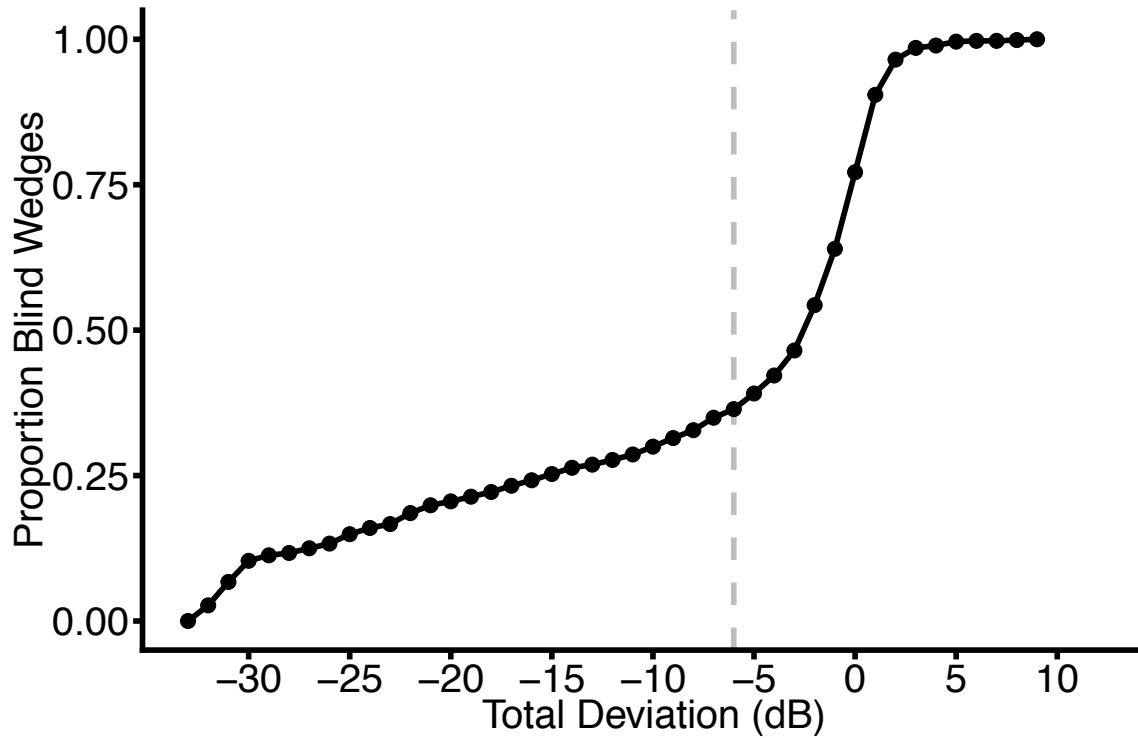
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372 **Figure S9: Cumulative distribution of Humphrey visual field total deviation values.**

373 Total deviation values for all participants at all visual field test locations and time points. The  
374 boundary for classifying a test location as blind or sighted was set at a total deviation of -6 dB  
375 since this is the elbow of the cumulative distribution plot.

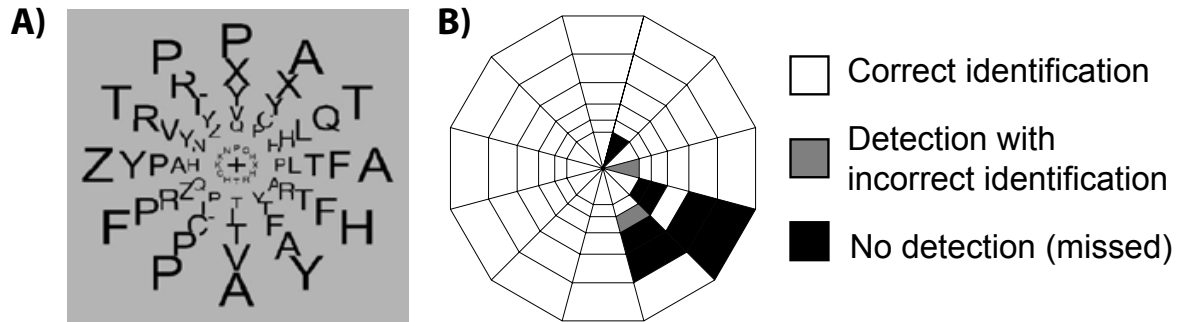
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379 **Figure S10: Letter detection and identification task.** A) Black letter stimuli were  
380 presented on a mean luminance background one at a time in 72 different locations within the  
381 central 22.5 degrees of vision. B) Example results from participant 5.



382

383

384 **Table S1: Experimental metadata.** Standard of care and study visit testing time points for  
385 Humphrey visual field testing, OCT, and fMRI retinotopy. All participants completed at least  
386 one study visit  $\geq 5$  months post-stroke; participants 6 – 15 also completed a study visit that  
387 included fMRI  $< 2$  months post-stroke. Some participants also completed additional study visits  
388 between the first and last visit, which are not reported here or in this manuscript.

Participant	Days Post Stroke			Scanner	Stimulus	Notes
	Humphrey	OCT	fMRI			
1	63					Standard of care
	602	602	602	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
2	6					Standard of care
	528	528	527	Trim Trio	Sequential	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
3	4					Standard of care
	675	675	675	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
4	5					Standard of care
	324	324				Study visit, no fMRI
5	2		3	750W	Continuous	fMRI data not used due to technical difficulties
	199	199	199	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
6	3	3	5	750W	Sequential	fMRI: No eye tracking, 2 runs
	192	192	192	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
7	25	25	25	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	297	297	297	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
8	8	8	3	750W	Random	fMRI: No eye tracking, 2 runs
	276	276	276	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
9	63	63	54	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	300	317	300	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
10	5	5	5	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	184	184	184	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 1 run, other run excluded - participant asleep
11	3	3	3	750W	Sequential	fMRI: No eye tracking, 2 runs
	183	183	183	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
12	2	2	1	750W	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	261	261	261	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
13	3	3	34	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	174	174	174	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 1 run, other run excluded - participant asleep
14	5	13	33	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
	270	270	270	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs
15	5	5	6	Trim Trio	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 1 run, other run excluded - participant asleep
	180	180	180	Prisma	Random	fMRI: Eye tracking, 2 runs, data not used - participant asleep

389

390 **Table S2: Demographics of healthy control participants.**

391

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Scanners</b>
C01	27	F	Trio, Prisma
C02	29	F	Prisma, 750W
C03	21	F	Prisma, 750W
C04	27	M	Prisma, 750W

392

393 **Table S3: Left and right Talairach coordinates used to define medial occipital cortex**  
394 **in each participant.**

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Left TalX</u>	<u>Right TalX</u>
1	-19	19
2	-19	13
3	-19	19
4	No fMRI	
5	-25	19
6	-16	16
7	-22	19
8	-19	19
9	-22	19
10	-19	16
11	-22	22
12	-25	19
13	-19	25
14	-16	22
15	-19	19

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