

Combined Whole-Eye and Partial-Face Transplant: A Milestone Towards Restoring Vision

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After surviving a severe high-voltage electrical accident, 46-year-old military veteran Aaron James underwent the world's first combined whole-eye and partial-face transplant in May 2023 at NYU Langone Health. Research published in September 2024 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) titled "Combined Whole Eye and Face Transplant – Microsurgical Strategy and 1-Year Clinical Course" highlights the clinical outcomes and data from the first year

post-transplant. Remarkably, the transplanted donor eye has maintained normal blood flow and pressure. While vision has not yet been restored, electroretinography (a technique that measures the retina's electrical response to light) has shown retinal activity in the transplanted eye. The successful revascularization achieved in this case may represent a significant step towards the future possibility of whole-eye transplants aimed at restoring sight.

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