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Device may help people with tunnel vision

BOSTON, Aug. 29 (UPI) -- U.S. scientists at Harvard Medical School's Schepens Eye Research Institute say a visual aid they invented may help people with tunnel vision.

In the first study to evaluate the small high-tech device, researchers reported a significant increase in the effectiveness and speed with which visually impaired individuals found objects. They said the apparatus, which combines a tiny camera, pocket-sized computer and transparent computer display on a pair of glasses, may offer the most effective assistance to date for visually impaired individuals.

"We are very pleased with the results of this first evaluation and hope that with further study and refinement, we may soon make this device available for the public," said Dr. Eli Peli, professor of ophthalmology and inventor of the device and senior author of the study,

About 1-in-200 Americans over age 55 suffers from tunnel vision.

The research is summarized in the September issue of the Journal of Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science.

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