

The eye: the fastest muscle in the human body

How much do you know about eyes? Learn more about the fastest muscle in the human body.

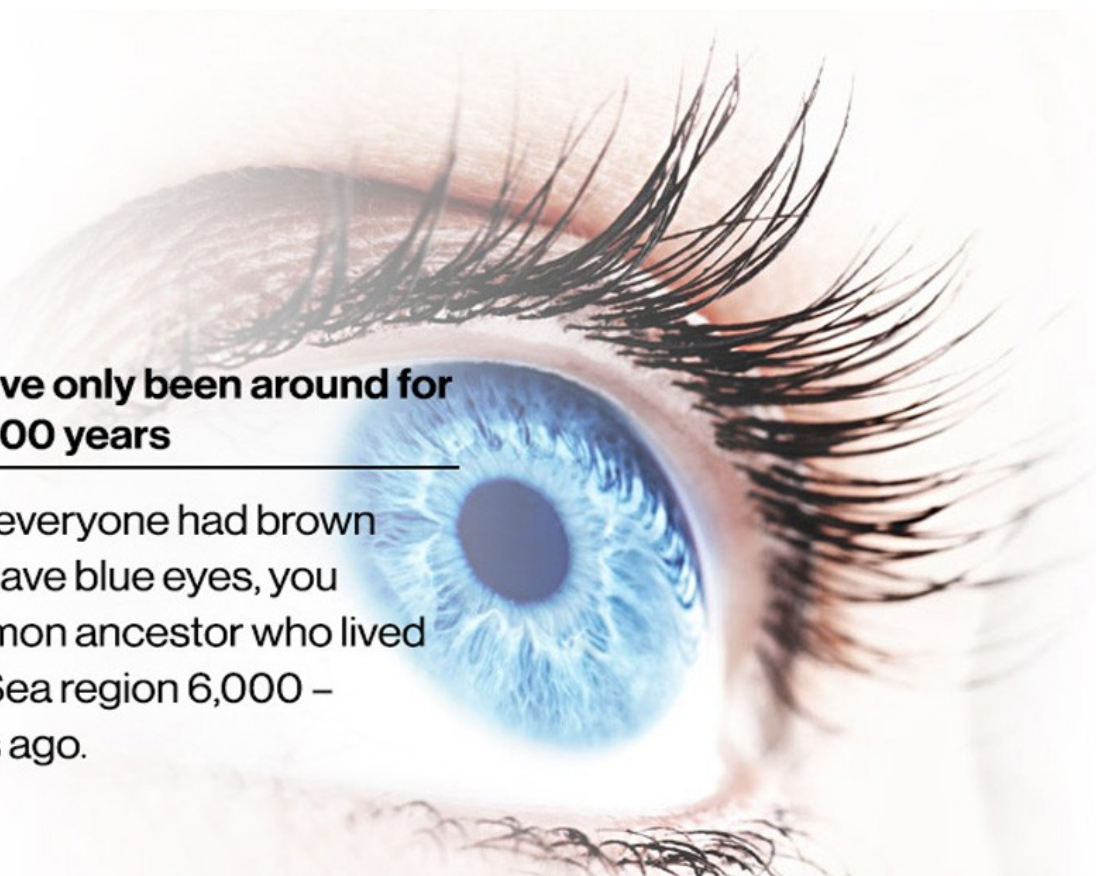
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Did you know that 285 million people worldwide are living with a visual impairment? In partnership with Alcon and Novartis Ophthalmology, we are strengthening our ability to innovate for those who are visually impaired. Find out more about our efforts and check out some unique facts below about eyes and the complexity behind them.

Newborns' eyes don't produce tears

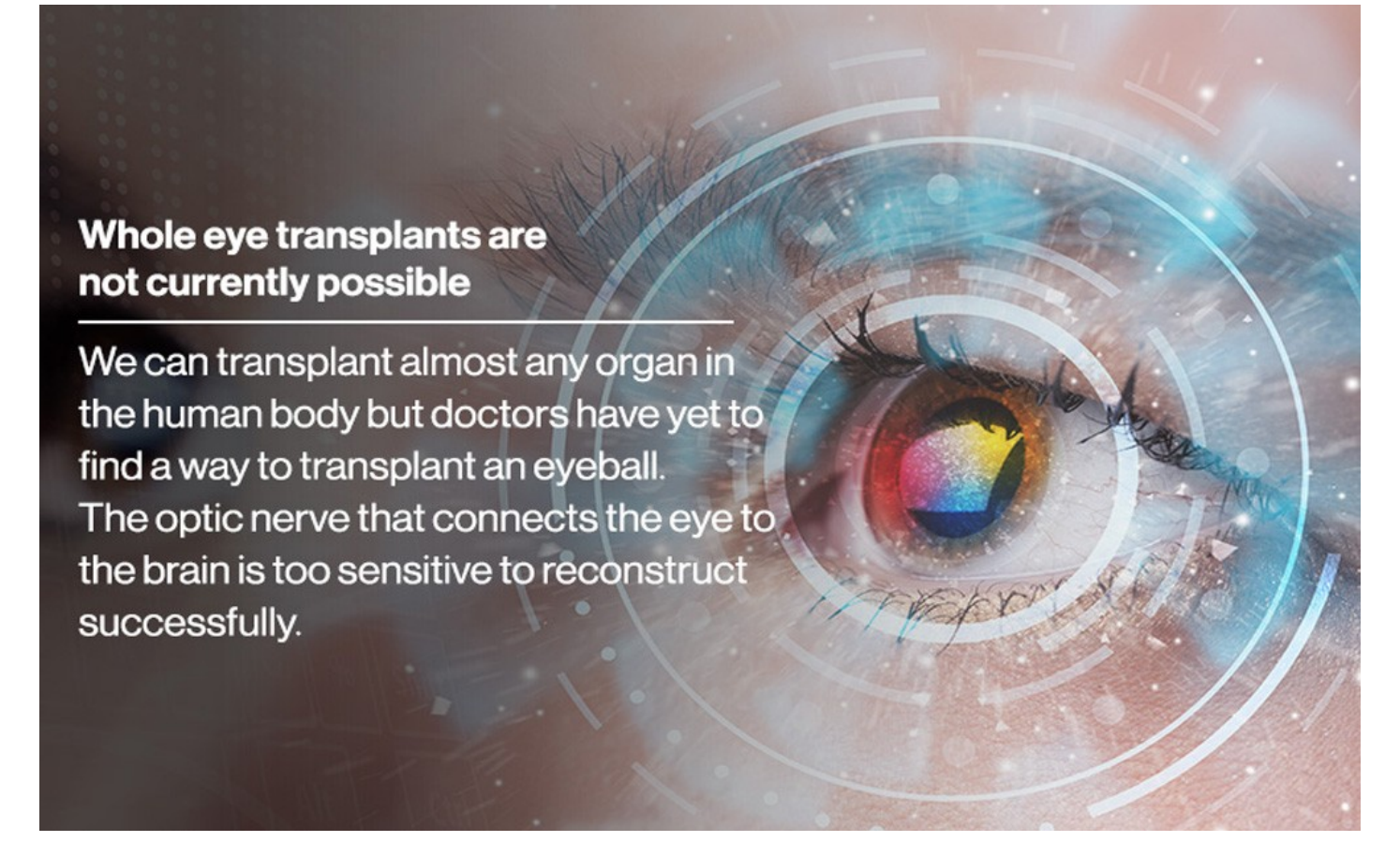
Newborn babies make crying sounds, but they can't shed tears because they don't have functional tear ducts - the tears don't start flowing until they are about 4-12 weeks old.





Blue eyes have only been around for 6,000 – 10,000 years

Before then, everyone had brown eyes. If you have blue eyes, you share a common ancestor who lived in the Black Sea region 6,000 – 10,000 years ago.



Whole eye transplants are not currently possible

We can transplant almost any organ in the human body but doctors have yet to find a way to transplant an eyeball. The optic nerve that connects the eye to the brain is too sensitive to reconstruct successfully.

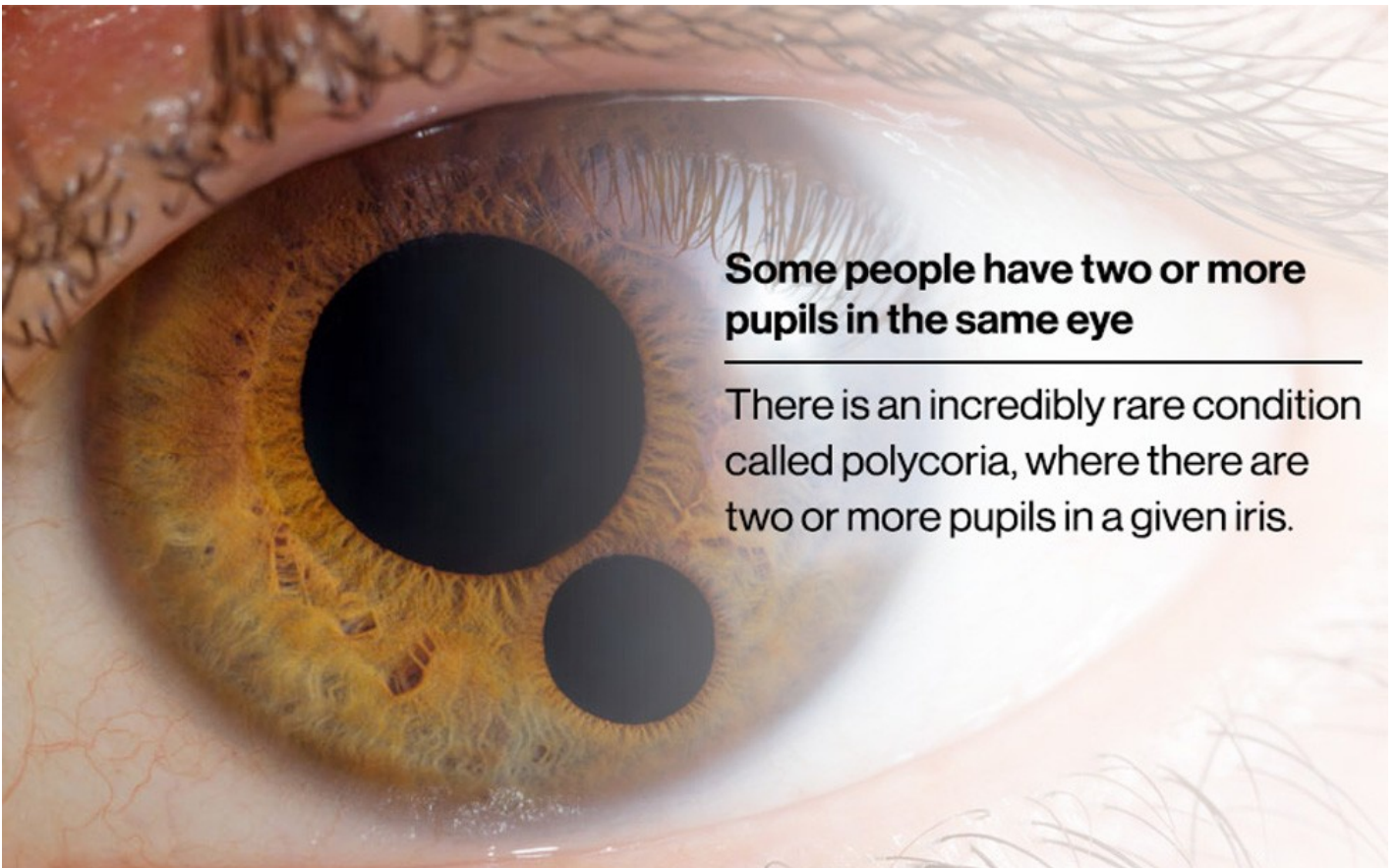
The eye contains the fastest muscle in the human body.

The eye muscle is the fastest reacting muscle of the whole body, contracting in less than 1/100th of a second. A blink typically lasts 100-150 milliseconds. You blink more when you're talking and less when you're reading, which is why you get more tired when reading.



Some people have two or more pupils in the same eye

There is an incredibly rare condition called polycoria, where there are two or more pupils in a given iris.



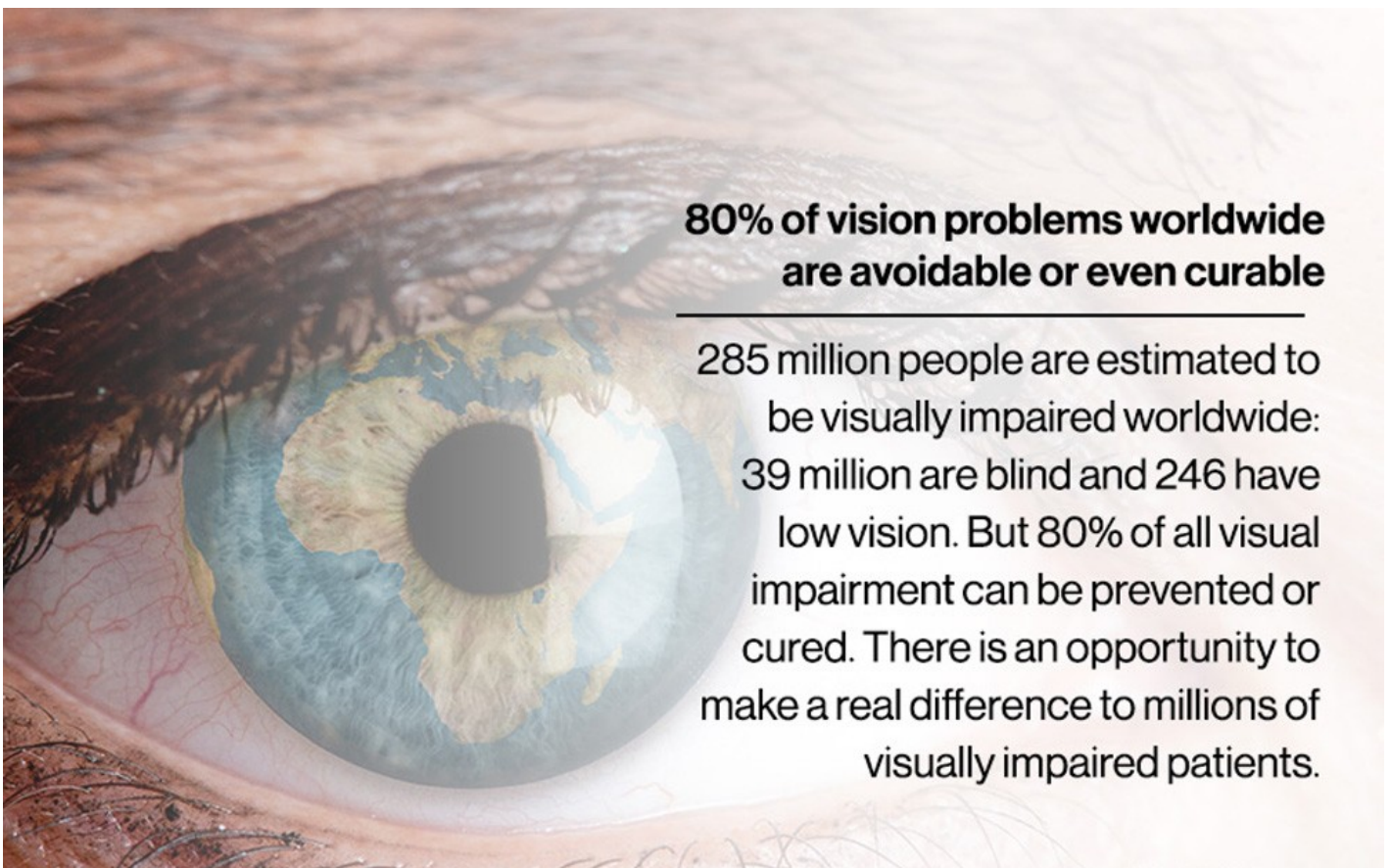
Babies almost have the same size eyes as adults

Although it is a myth that eyes stay the same size from birth, a baby's eyes are approximately 75% of the size of an adult eye.



80% of vision problems worldwide are avoidable or even curable

285 million people are estimated to be visually impaired worldwide: 39 million are blind and 246 have low vision. But 80% of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured. There is an opportunity to make a real difference to millions of visually impaired patients.



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