

You said:

At the time of writing, there is not a single mass media article comparing Neuralink Blindsight with The vOICe. Why?

Grok AI said:

The absence of mass media articles comparing Neuralink's Blindsight to The vOICe can be attributed to several factors based on the current landscape of these technologies. First, Blindsight is a relatively recent and highly speculative project. Neuralink announced it in 2024 as an experimental brain implant aimed at restoring vision through direct stimulation of the visual cortex, but it's still in early development stages—receiving FDA breakthrough device designation but not yet in human trials as of late 2025. Coverage of Blindsight tends to focus on Elon Musk's involvement, ethical concerns around Neuralink's animal testing, and broader hype about brain-computer interfaces, rather than in-depth technical comparisons. In contrast, The vOICe is a much older technology, developed in the early 1990s by Peter Meijer. It's a non-invasive sensory substitution system that converts camera-captured images into soundscapes via headphones, allowing users to interpret visual information through hearing after training. While effective for some blind users and available as free software (often paired with glasses or apps), it remains largely confined to academic research, niche communities for the visually impaired, and specialized journals. It hasn't achieved widespread commercial success or cultural penetration, partly because it's not a "cure" for blindness but a tool requiring significant adaptation. The two approaches are fundamentally different, which may reduce the incentive for direct comparisons in mass media:

- Blindsight is invasive (requiring surgery and electrodes in the brain) and targets direct visual perception restoration, potentially for those with optic nerve damage or congenital blindness.
- The vOICe is non-invasive, relies on cross-modal plasticity (rewiring the brain to "see" via sound), and provides indirect, auditory-based "vision" without altering the brain directly.

Mass media outlets like The New York Times, CNN, BBC, The Guardian, and The Washington Post have extensively covered Neuralink's progress (e.g., FDA approvals, patient implants for motor control, and Musk's ambitious claims), but searches across these sources yield no mentions of The vOICe in that context. This likely stems from:

- Lack of newsworthiness: Without a shared event, controversy, or milestone (e.g., a clinical trial pitting them against each other), journalists may not see a compelling angle. The vOICe's developer has published self-promotional comparisons on their website (seeingwithsound.com), but these haven't sparked broader interest.
- Media focus on hype vs. substance: Musk's celebrity drives clicks and stories about futuristic tech, while The vOICe's low-profile, open-source nature doesn't generate the same buzz. Sensory substitution devices like it have been around for decades (e.g., similar systems date back to the 1960s), so they're often viewed as established but unglamorous.
- Audience and expertise: Mass media prioritizes accessible, high-impact narratives. Comparing an unproven implant with a sound-based app might require too much technical explanation for general readers, and without expert commentary bridging them, it falls through the cracks.

If Blindsight advances to human trials or demonstrates results, or if a high-profile figure in the blind community draws parallels, this could change. For now, discussions of such comparisons are limited to specialized forums, AI-generated benchmarks, and The vOICE's own advocacy materials.

Source: <https://x.com/i/grok/share/rwwObjZDFMTtSLU643qgIYYII>