

## **Sight Regained After Bumping Head**

The New York Times online reports that a New Zealand woman who went blind following a brain tumor 10 years ago has regained partial eyesight after she knocked her head on a coffee table at her home in Auckland.

Lisa Reid, 24, collided with the table when she bent down to kiss her guide dog, Ami, good night 10 days ago. When she woke up the next day, she could see. "I woke up and, wow, the colors," she said.

A few hours later she telephoned her mother and read out a health warning from a cigarette packet. When her boyfriend and close friends arrived at her house to celebrate, she could not identify them by sight. Her brother had changed from a 12-year-old boy into a man. "It's fantastic, amazing, unbelievable," she said. "It's almost too much to take in."

Dr. Ross McKay, an eye surgeon at Auckland Hospital, confirmed that Ms. Reid had regained 80 per cent sight in her left eye, although her color vision was limited. He said he had not encountered a similar case in 25 years as an eye specialist. "For some reason she's got her sight back, and don't ask me for an explanation because I don't have one," he said.

Ms. Reid was given a 5 per cent chance of survival after the brain tumor was discovered 13 years ago. Radiology and an operation to remove the tumor were successful, but it damaged her eyes. She was declared blind at the age of 14, able to detect only light and dark. Doctors told her that she would never see again.