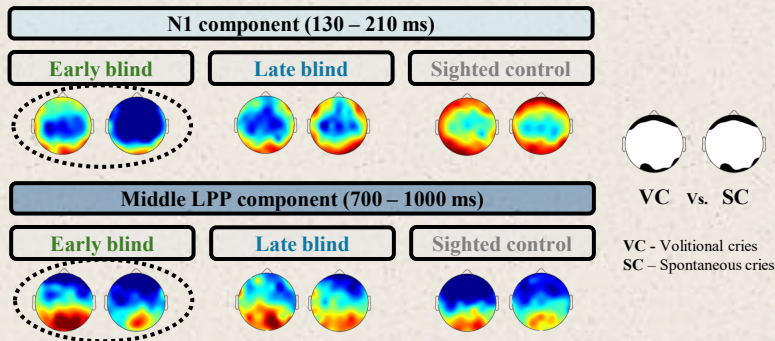


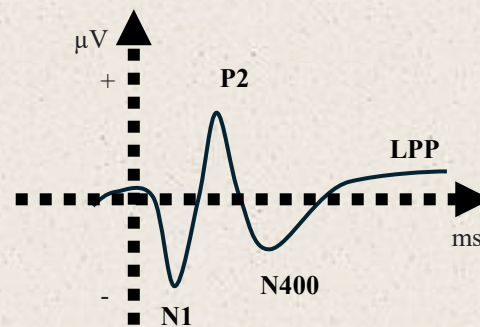
Does blindness affect the perception of vocal emotion and identity information?

Vocal emotion perception



Only **early-blind** listeners were sensitive to crying authenticity at the **N1** (all p 's < .001) **and middle LPP** (all p 's < .001) time windows.

Vocal identity perception



Identity effects were stronger in the **early blind** group (vs. **sighted**) at the **N1** (lowest $p = .008$) and **N400** time windows (lowest $p < .001$).

Behavioral findings

- Emotional authenticity perception** - **Early blind** and **sighted** participants performed similarly well ($p > .999$), but the **late blind** group performed worse than **sighted controls** ($p < .001$).
- Emotion recognition** - No group differences ($p = .999$).
- Identity recognition** - No group differences ($p = .619$).

Main conclusions:

- Together, these studies suggest that neural mechanisms of voice perception develop differently in cases of **early blindness**.
- Behaviourally, our findings suggest that **late-onset blindness** relates to decreased sensitivity to authenticity but preserved identity perception.