

Alison's Vision Information

I have oculocutaneous albinism which means I have little or no pigment in my eyes, skin, or hair. My eye doctor also said my albinism is tyrosinase positive which means it is mild to moderate albinism. Because I have albinism, I have this thing called nystagmus...it's the reason my eyes "dance" to their own beat.

What this means to me is that the sun outside can burn me if I am not covered up, in the shade, or wearing sun block. The lights in the classroom can be incredibly painful as the light is often too bright and hurts my eyes. Often the lights make my eyes water and gives me headaches.

My acuties are 20/400. Basically what this means is I can see the teacher in the front of the classroom, but I can't tell if she's smiling or not. I know she's writing on the white board as I hear the marker tapping on it, but I can't see that she's made any marks on it.

I occasionally get eye floaters. Sometimes I get a headache with them as I am struggling to focus on the worksheet or whatever I'm trying to do. The floaters sometimes make me sleepy. I close my eyes to try to make them go away, but *I'm still listening*. The floaters can be very distracting to me as once I see them, I can't help but focus on them.

When I get the floaters, I don't get just one or two. I get a bunch of them and they litter my field of vision. This image is an example of eye floaters like I see. Eye floaters are small moving spots that appear in your field of vision. They may be especially noticeable when you look at something bright, such as white paper or a blue sky. Eye floaters can and are annoying!



Some resources that I plan to learn more about:

- NOAH:

http://www.albinism.org/publications/what_is_albinism.html

- American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus:

<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/12>

- The Vision for Tomorrow Foundation:

<http://www.visionfortomorrow.org/albinism/>