

Transcript

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 Program: **BREAKFAST** Time: **06:51 AM**
 Compere: **RED SYMONS** Summary ID: **M00038731428**
 Item: **DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL EYE PROBLEMS WITH 3D TV.**
INTERVIEWEES: LIONEL KOWAL, SPOKESMAN, EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL

Demographics:	Male 16+	Female 16+	All people	ABs	GBs
	53000	54000	107000	43000	61000

RED SYMONS: If you were going to watch it on TV, would you watch it in 3D TV? There's lots of them about at the moment. I see that they're already advertising them. You can go to a, you know, high-tech store and buy one. I don't know what you'd play on it. Didn't know if there's any material for them yet. But I suppose there's a bit of Blu-ray or something.

But with a timely warning in regard to 3D TV, on the line is Dr Lionel Kowal from the Eye and Ear Hospital.

Good morning, Doctor.

LIONEL KOWAL: Good morning, Red.

RED SYMONS: Now, I think you're being a bit remiss in all this.

LIONEL KOWAL: And possibly in other things, too.



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RED SYMONS: [Laughs] Well, it would seem to me that you should have been ringing years ago about just the harmful effect of TV, full stop, let alone 3D.

LIONEL KOWAL: I'm just an eye doctor, Red. I'm not a mind doctor.

RED SYMONS: [Laughs] Are you? How is 3D TV a danger?

LIONEL KOWAL: It's a - it will cause or may cause some visual discomfort in maybe five per cent of the population who have poor quality 3D vision. People who have no 3D vision, which is a tiny percentage, they'll be fine, and people who have excellent 3D vision, which is 90 per cent of the country, they'll be fine.

But people who have substandard 3D vision, it might cause a lot of visual discomfort and headaches. And I think anyone who is considering buying the 3D TV, they just need to go and watch it for five or ten minutes before they spend their money.

RED SYMONS: So if you were a Cyclops with one eye...

LIONEL KOWAL: You'd be fine.

RED SYMONS: ...you'd be fine. If you have two perfectly good eyes, you'd be fine. But is it because if you have one eye that's really struggling to make 3D, it's making it work harder?



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LIONEL KOWAL: Something like that, yes.

RED SYMONS: There's no need to be patronising. You'd spell it out for me. [Laughs]

LIONEL KOWAL: Well, if it's reasonably good and you have the ability to struggle, then it's the struggle that's likely to make you uncomfortable.

RED SYMONS: Right. Now, there is one other thing I've wondered about this. The way 3D TV works is with shutter glasses which basically go on and off. Is there any danger of epilepsy from such a thing?

LIONEL KOWAL: I wouldn't think so, no.

RED SYMONS: Oh, I'm disappointed. I'm working with you. [Laughs] I have actually had the experience - I went with the kids to the IMAX to see a 3D movie. We went at the wrong time, so we watched two in a row, and it was bizarre. Coming out, I was - the effort - because it's not a convention, it's not the 3D we see in our lives, it's kind of flattened in some way to accommodate the limitations of the screen. And coming outside after watching, I'd guess two hours, basically, of 3D TV, it was - I did feel a lot of disorientation when I came out of the cinema.

LIONEL KOWAL: Well, maybe you need a checkup. No, but seriously, I think it's a great advance, and I'm sure it'll be incredibly popular. Having watch - I've been to IMAX; I've looked at the 3D computer games. I



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think people will just love it. And just there is this tiny percentage of the population who may get some visual discomfort from it.

RED SYMONS: So as an ophthalmologist at the Eye and Ear Hospital, your advice is before you buy a 3D TV, see an ophthalmologist at the Eye and Ear Hospital?

LIONEL KOWAL: [Laughs] Well, not seriously...

RED SYMONS: I'm giving referrals to you now. How did that happen?

LIONEL KOWAL: But look, thank you, Red. But seriously, I think just before you buy it, try it.

RED SYMONS: Yeah, that seems perfectly sensible advice. Thank you, Doctor.

LIONEL KOWAL: You're very welcome, Red.

RED SYMONS: Dr Lionel Kowal from the Eye and Ear Hospital. If you're thinking of getting a 3D TV, go and have a look in the shop first, but don't just - not just for a minute, give it a good red hot go so you can see if it's going to exhaust you.



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ABs = Managers, administrators, professions. GBs = Grocery buyers.
