Michael Scofield CPI Debunk

By HelloThere1089

The purpose of this doc is essentially to render the CPI calc useless for normal outsmarting matchups. Props to the original creator of the CPI doc for all the research that went into it. All the studies used in this doc are referenced at the end.

The original doc mentions this:

“According to the doctor (who possesses one of the most advanced medical knowledge on the planet, with technology 20 years ahead of its time), the method being used by The Company ***forces a type of "general execution."*** *In other words, all of the patient’s senses activate simultaneously.”*

This clearly mentions that the method FORCES this effect that Scofield experiences which should logically imply that this would not be normally doable for Michael. I point this out because the same doc then mentions this:

“Before Scofield even asks Charles, Cooper responds, saying no. Scofield is not dead. This means that Charles is a representation of another side of Scofield's brilliant mind, one that is aware of the situation. In other words, while Scofield is unconscious, he is also awake. ***Therefore, we cannot say that Scofield only reaches this level of CPI when being induced****, this simply means that he hasn’t used it at other points in the series.”*

Scofield being awake during this process does NOT change the fact that this entire method is medically induced and cannot be replicated without them. The method as stated prior, forces this state of mind. Without the needles Michael will never be able to utilize this rush which as expected he never does again in the show. Another thing from the doc I’d like to point out:

*“In real life, something similar happens with the human brain. However, these are just brief recollections (similar to what occurs in dreams) and typically take about **seven minutes** to process and recall key moments.”*

Now I will type the entire dialogue between Sara and the doctor:

*“Those needles, they’re for stabilization? Not exactly. Throughout the surgery, **different portions of Michael’s cerebral cortex will be stimulated**, triggering the areas that control senses like hearing, smell, memory. That’s why some people **right before death** often speak of their life flashing before their eyes. **When oxygen is cut off to the brain** it kicks into overdrive tapping into every resource to **continue operating** the body. As a result all of the senses fire off at once. Everything you’ve ever known, felt, believed, it all passes in a blink of an eye”*

Now this portion of the doc requires some attention to detail. As you can see in the actual dialogue, there are two separate methods: stimulating different portions of Michael’s cerebral cortex via needles, and cutting off oxygen supply. We already know Michael’s oxygen supply isn’t being cut off because otherwise he’d be dead as the procedure took place for a long time. So his mental state is induced via the needles as explained by the doctor. The doctor then proceeds to compare this effect to real life examples of life flashing before someone’s eyes and that’s when she explains why it happens in near death situations (proven by the fact that she states “*to **continue operating** the body*” which isn’t the case with Michael as he is not dying.). It happens because of the cutting off of oxygen supply. This is also backed up by IRL scientists. The point I am trying to make is that the “in an instant” phrase is used to describe what happens in real life near death situations and that is similar to what Michael is experiencing. Which means Michael isn’t experiencing anything faster than anybody who is dying. Real life researchers have revealed that this flashing of life happens within 30 seconds even though the brain was monitored for 900 seconds. This debunks the 7 minutes figure presented in the original doc, rendering the calc useless. Now you may ask, why can’t we use the

30 second vs blink of an eye for the calc? That's because I think that the phrase used by the doctor to describe near death experiences is just misinformation. The studies I have linked are from 2020 while the show is from 2009. It's not out of the ordinary for doctors who haven't yet studied the phenomena to have misconceptions about it. It is not ideal to base an entire calc on just one phrase describing normal near death experiences. But if you want to calc a medically induced Michael vs normal person, then you can use a 30 seconds timeframe, which would still be useless because of the reasons below.

Can Michael's CPI be used for SCD matchups?

I have to say no because of the following reasons:

1. The doctor used the word "instant" to describe what happens when you cut off oxygen supply, i.e near death experience. Which leads me to conclude that what Michael experienced isn't above what a normal human would experience in the same situation.
2. The doc admitted that this state of mind is forced by the company's methods. Which means without that external help, Michael won't be able to replicate these effects in normal outsmarting matches.
3. Michael being awake during the process does not mean that he will be able to use his brain at that capacity without the surgery method. Especially since the doctor says that the surgery requires him to be awake. All of this does not change the fact that Michael is being forced to use his brain at that speed using technology.
4. The 0.2 second timeframe cannot be used because it is derived from a statement used to describe near death experiences in the verse. So unless you argue that NPCs from Prison Break have 2100x CPI that of a real human being, the "blink of an eye" is most likely an exaggeration of misconception due to the show being from 2009.

Can Michael's Memory be used for SCD matchups?

This should obviously be a no. The description of both the method used by the company and near death experiences mention that this state of mind augments a person's memory recall. This cannot be achieved in normal stable conditions or else the phenomena wouldn't be a big deal and a topic of numerous scientific discussions. The doc states this: "It's very likely that there are hundreds of millions of pieces of information involved, considering that Michael remembered every letter, recalled the fonts used in the text, visualized the face of every inmate, as well as the photo that was used for them. His tattoos, every inch of them, were perfectly identical, just like the Fox River map—everything was exactly the same.
" Now this obviously contradicts with the lack of such memory showcased by when Michael needed the help of Haywire to recall his own tattoo.

Can Michael's VSI be used for SCD matchups?

I am mostly neutral (leaning towards no) to this. The life flashing before one's eyes is usually described as augmenting one's memory recall and CPI. So it may be possible that Michael can use his VSI at this capacity without any help from tech. However, since this was done using special equipment, we will never know if it is possible.

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References of studies used:
https://www.scimex.org/newsfeed/does-our-life-flash-before-our-eyes-during-death
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