Vergence Paresis in Multiple System Atrophy

Key words: multiple system atrophy, diplopia, convergence, divergence, midbrain

Figure 1. Hess chart of the patients. Hess chart of case 1 (A) showed mild divergence paresis, whereas that of case 2 (B) showed convergence paresis with mild skew.

Diplopia has not been considered a feature of multiple system atrophy (MSA). However, two of our MSA patients (case 1, 79-year-old man, disease duration 5 years; case 2, 68-year-old man, disease duration 5 years) developed mild horizontal diplopia. Both patients had no eye movement limitation suggestive of abducens palsy etc., except for poor convergence and mild upgaze paresis. Characteristically, the grade of the horizontal diplopia in both patients was unchanged in every direction. On the Hess chart, a paresis of divergence (case 1) and of convergence (case 2) was detected (Fig. 1). Although vergence paresis is uncommon, it is a clinical localizing sign of the midbrain tegmentum (1, 2), and is potentially treatable with prism eyeglasses.

References

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