Involvement of the Abducens Nucleus Results in Adduction Impairment of the Contralateral Eye

Key words: abducens nucleus, internuclear neurons

To the Editor We read with interest the article by Tsukita et al. describing a patient presenting with abducens and peripheral facial nerve palsy in association with pontine infarction (1). According to the schematic depiction of the authors, the pontine lesion seems to involve the left abducens nucleus. However, this article does not mention whether or not adduction of the right eye was impaired in their patient. The abducens nucleus contains not only the abduction motoneurons but also the internuclear neurons involved in the adduction of the contralateral eye (2). The fibers pass through the contralateral medial longitudinal fasciculus before relaying in the oculomotor nucleus in the midbrain (2). Therefore, if the pontine lesion affected the left abducens nucleus, the patient should present with not only abduction impairment of the left eye but also adduction impairment of the right eye (2).

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

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References


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