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## Eye movements in stroke

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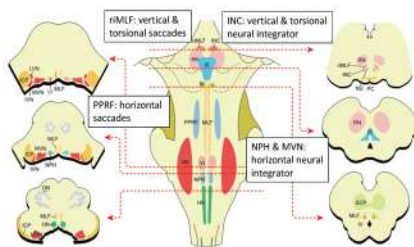
### Stroke causing eye movement disorders

- Brainstem stroke
  - Medullary stroke:
    - Lateral medullary syndrome / Medial medullary syndrome
  - Pontine stroke:
    - Paramedian pontine stroke / Lateral pontine stroke
  - Midbrain stroke
    - Ocular motor palsy (Oculomotor and trochlear palsy)
    - Pretectal syndrome / Top of the basilar artery syndrome
- Cerebellar stroke
  - PICA/AICA/SCA stroke
- Thalamic stroke
- Hemispheric stroke
  - MCA/ACA/PCA stroke

### Eye movements classification and eye movement disorders caused by stroke

- Saccades
- Smooth pursuit and visual fixation
- Vestibulo-ocular reflex (VOR)
- Vergence
- Nystagmus/saccadic intrusion
- Ophthalmoplegia and ocular misalignment
- Eye lid/pupil

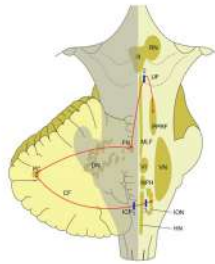
### Structures responsible for ocular motor control in the brainstem



### Neuro-ophthalmological findings in LMS

- Horner's syndrome
- Spontaneous nystagmus (vestibular nucleus)
  - : contralesional mixed horizontal-torsional N (rostral lesion)
  - : ipsilesional mixed horizontal-torsional N (caudal lesion)
  - : vertical component – usually upbeat
  - : pure torsional nystagmus
- Horizontal gaze-evoked nystagmus
  - : medial vestibular nucleus (MVN)
- Ocular ipsipulsion
- Ipsilesional OTR
- Ipsilesional head-shaking nystagmus

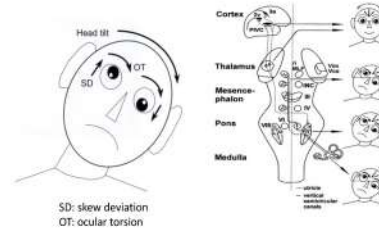
### Schematic representation of the involved pathways in ocular lateropulsion



The Purkinje cells (PC) of the dorsal ocular motor vermis inhibit the ipsilateral caudal fastigial nucleus (FN), which generates contralateral saccades when stimulated. The fibers from the caudal FN cross the midline, exit the cerebellum in the uncinate fasciculus, and project to the contralateral PPRF. Ocular ipsipulsion commonly occurs in LMS because of damage to the olivocerebellar fibers after decussation [1], while ocular contrapulsion occurs in the superior cerebellar infarction [2] or in the MMS [3] by damaging the fibers from the FN to the PPRF or the olivocerebellar fibers before decussation.

Lee SH, Kim JS, 2017 J Neuro-Ophthalmol

### Ocular tilt reaction (OTR)



SD: skew deviation  
OT: ocular torsion

### Neuro-ophthalmological findings in MMS

- **Spontaneous nystagmus**
  - : ipsilesional mixed horizontal-torsional nystagmus (NPH)
  - : upbeat nystagmus (disruption of bilateral AC pathways or nucleus intercalatus/Roller)
- **Gaze-evoked nystagmus**
  - : horizontal GEN (ipsi-gaze >> contra-gaze) (NPH)
  - : vertical GEN (NPH, MVN)
- **Ocular contrapulsion**
- **Contralesional OTR**

### Comparisons of ocular motor findings with lesions of the medulla

TABLE 1. Comparisons of ocular motor findings with lesions of the medulla

Clinical Finding/Test	Vestibular Nucleus	NPH	ICP
Spontaneous nystagmus	Contralesional, strong	Ipsilesional, weak	Ipsilesional, weak
GEN	Contralesional, strong	Strong, ipsilesional	None
Ocular tilt reaction	Ipsiversive	Contralesional	Contralesional
Body lateropulsion	Ipsilesional	Contralesional	Ipsilesional
SVV tilt	Ipsiversive	Contralesional	Contralesional
Smooth pursuit	Impaired, bilateral	Impaired, ipsilesional	Impaired, ipsilesional
Saccades	Normal	Normal	Normal
VOR			
HIT	Decreased gains, both HCIs and PCs (ipsilesional > 1; contralesional)	Decreased gain, contralesional HC; increased gains, both ACs	Normal
Caloric	Ipsilesional paresis	Normal	Normal

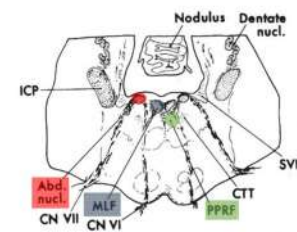
AC, anterior canal; GEN, gaze-evoked nystagmus; HC, horizontal canal; HIT, head impulse test; ICP, inferior cerebellar peduncle; NPH, nucleus prepositus hypoglossi; PC, posterior canal; SVV, subjective visual vertical; VOR, vestibulo-ocular reflex.

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### Neuro-ophthalmological findings in pontine lesion

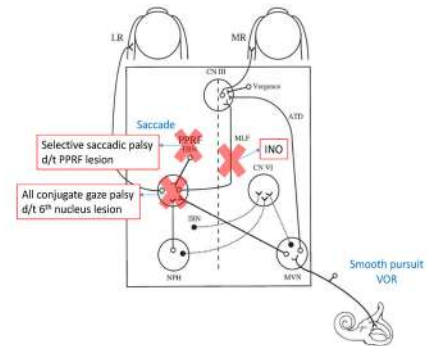
- INO (internuclear ophthalmoplegia): **MLF**
- Bilateral INO (WEBINO): **MLF (bilateral)**
- Conjugate gaze palsy: **PPRF** or **6<sup>th</sup> nucleus lesion**
- One-and-a-half syndrome: **PPRF** or **6<sup>th</sup> nucleus lesion + MLF**
- Abducens nerve palsy: **6<sup>th</sup> nerve fascicle**
- Bruns nystagmus, pseudo-vestibular neuritis (AICA)
- Gaze-evoked nystagmus: **PMT**
- Jerky seesaw nystagmus in INO: **MLF (VOR, vertical canal)**
- Abnormal smooth pursuit: **DLPN, NRTPT**
- Oculopalatal tremor: **CTT**
- Contralateral OTR in INO: **MLF (otholith pathway)**
- Ocular bobbing

### Structures responsible for ocular motor control in the lower pons



### Clinical Features of INO

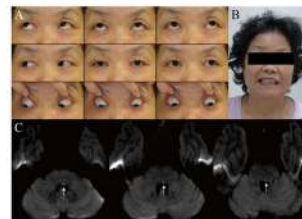
- Weakness of the ipsi. MR for conjugate eye movements—especially saccades, leading to “adduction lag”
- Adduction may be preserved during convergence
- Nystagmus or postsaccadic drift on abduction of the eye contralateral to the lesion—“dissociated nystagmus”
- Skew deviation—hypertropia on the side of the lesion
- Bilateral INO also causes gaze-evoked vertical nystagmus, impaired vertical pursuit, and decreased vertical vestibular responses
- Small-amplitude saccadic intrusions may interrupt fixation



Comparison of clinical characteristics between the lesions of the abducens nucleus and PPRF

	Abducens Nc	PPRF
Horizontal gaze	Loss of all conjugate movements toward the lesion In the intact hemifield of gaze, ipsilaterally directed saccades may be relatively preserved	Selective horizontal saccadic palsy toward the lesion
Primary position	Contralateral gaze deviation during the acute phase	Contralateral gaze deviation during the acute phase
GEN	Horizontal GEN on looking contralaterally	Horizontal GEN on looking contralaterally
Other characteristic	Ipsilateral facial palsy often associated	Bilateral lesions cause slowing of vertical saccades

### Clinical findings of the 6<sup>th</sup> nucleus lesion



- Loss of all conjugate movements towards the lesion – “ipsilateral, horizontal gaze palsy”
- Contralateral gaze deviation, in acute phase
- Horizontal gaze-evoked nystagmus on looking contralaterally
- Ipsilateral facial palsy often associated

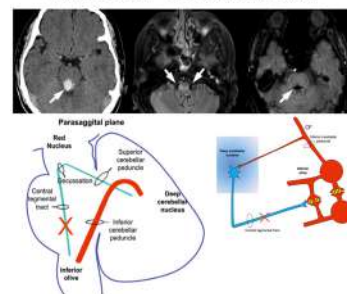
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### Clinical Features of “One-And-A-Half” syndrome

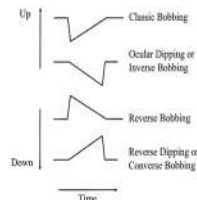
- Ipsilateral horizontal gaze palsy and INO
- Only surviving horizontal conjugate movement is abduction of the contralateral eye
- Paralytic pontine exotropia on looking straight ahead (one eye is deviated laterally)
- Vergence and vertical movements may be spared



### Guillain-Mollaret Triangle (Dentate nucleus, Red nucleus, Inferior Olive) – Oculopalatal tremor



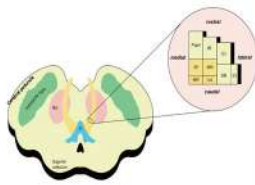
### Ocular bobbing after pontine hemorrhage



### Neuro-ophthalmological findings in midbrain stroke

- Ocular motor palsy (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>) : nuclear or fascicular
- Vertical gaze palsy
- Horizontal gaze palsy
- Pretectal syndrome
  - : Defective vertical gaze, esp. upward
  - : Light-near dissociation of the pupils
  - : Lid retraction (Collier's sign)
  - : Convergence-retraction nystagmus
  - : Convergence spasm
- Contralateral OTR

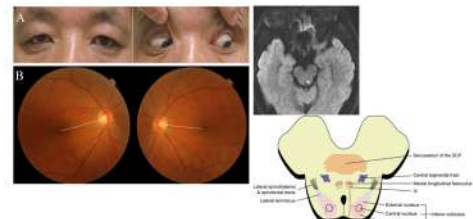
### Fascicular lesion of the oculomotor nerve : 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy with other long tract sign



Syndrome	Associated sign	Lesion
Weber	Contralateral hemiplegia	Cerebral peduncle
Benedict	Contralateral hemiplegia, involuntary movements or tremor	Cerebral peduncle, substantia nigra, red nucleus
Claude	Contralateral ataxia	Superior cerebellar peduncle, red nucleus
Nothnagel	Ipsilateral ataxia	Superior cerebellar peduncle

Lee SH, Kim JS, 2017 J Neuro-Ophthalmol

### Isolated trochlear palsy due to midbrain stroke



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### Topodiagnosis of lesions involving INC and riMLF

	INC	riMLF
Unilateral inactivation		
OTR	Contraversive	Contraversive
Torsional nystagmus	Inversive	Contraversive
GEN	Vertical and torsional GEN	No
VOR		
Torsional	Little effects on VOR gain and phase	Loss of ipsilateral nystagmus
Vertical	Little effects on VOR gain and phase	
Saccades		
Torsional	Reduced or abolished contralateral fast phases	All ipsilateral components are lost
Vertical	Reduced amplitudes and normal velocity	Slowed
Biocentric inactivation		
GEN	Vertical and torsional GEN	No
VOR		
Torsional and vertical	Severely reduced gain and phase lead	Preserved
Saccades		
Torsional		Loss of all vertical and torsional saccades
Vertical	Reduced amplitudes and normal velocity	
Unilateral stimulation		
OTR	Inversive	
Torsional nystagmus	Contraversive	

Adapted from (13).  
GEN, generalized nystagmus; INC, interstitial nucleus of Cajal; OTR, ocular tilt reaction; riMLF, rostral interstitial nucleus of the medial longitudinal fasciculus; VOR, vestibuloocular reflex.

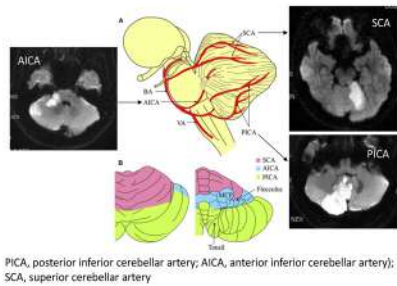
Lee SH, Kim JS, 2017 J Neuro-Ophthalmol

### Clinical characteristics of the dorsal midbrain syndrome

- **Nystagmus and other involuntary eye movements**
  - Upbeat, downbeat, convergence-retraction nystagmus, torsional, see-saw or hemi-see-saw nystagmus
  - Vertical GEN
  - Paroxysmal OTR
- **Ophthalmoplegia**
  - Vertical: upgaze, downgaze, both up- and down-gaze palsy, vertical 1 & 1/2 syndrome, monocular elevation palsy
  - Horizontal: pseudo-sixth nerve palsy, contralateral saccadic palsy, ipsilateral pursuit impairment
  - Vergence: convergence or divergence insufficiency, convergence spasm
- **Ocular misalignment**
  - Exotropia, esotropia
  - Skew deviation: contralateral, alternating, intermittent
  - Sustained upgaze or downgaze
- **Pupillary abnormalities**
  - Anisocoria
  - No or diminished light reflex
  - Light-near dissociation
- **Lid abnormalities**
  - Collier sign (lid retraction)
  - Ptosis

Leigh & Zee, 2015

## Cerebellar infarction



## Cerebellar infarction

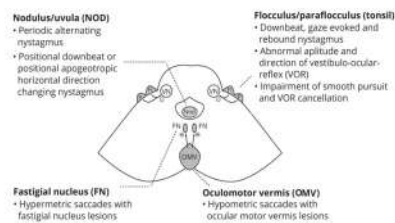
Table 1. Differentiating among common central and peripheral acute vestibular syndromes

	PICA Caudal cerebellum including nucleus, lateral medulla	AICA periaqueductal gray/rostral medulla	Medulla/nucleus	Vestibular nucleus
Isolated vertigo	Possible, common	Possible, uncommon	Possible, uncommon	Almost always
Cerebellar ataxia	None	Common	Abnormal, if medial subnucleus involved	Abnormal, if superior or complete vestibular nuclei involved
Bedside head impulse test	Normal	Abnormal	Abnormal, if medial subnucleus involved	Abnormal, if superior or complete vestibular nuclei involved
Healing time	None	Common	None	None
Spontaneous nystagmus	None	Unidirectional (horizontal, vertical, or torsional)	Unidirectional (horizontal, vertical, or torsional)	Unidirectional
Effect of gaze on nystagmus	Variable, typically "direction-changing"	Unidirectional	Variable	Unidirectional
Skew deviation	Variable, usually in lateral medulla	Variable	Variable	Occasionally
Side of frontal deviation	Variable, usually severe	Variable	Variable	Variable
Proctal instability	Variable, usually severe	Variable	Variable	Mild to moderate
Concomitant	Ischemic, demyelination	Ischemic, demyelination	Ischemic	Very atypical

\*Direction changes (horizontal) gain: indicates that the intensity is maximal when gaze is toward the lesion side. Direction-fixed (vertical) gain: indicates that the intensity is maximal when gaze is toward the lesion side. Direction-fixed (horizontal) gain: indicates that the intensity is maximal when gaze is toward the lesion side.

Lee H, 2014 J Stroke

## Eye movement abnormalities that have localizing value with respect to the cerebellum



Kronenberg, Zee, 2018 Neurology  
Leigh & Zee, 2015

## Clinical findings of diencephalic lesions

### Thalamic lesions

- Conjugate gaze deviation away from the side of the lesion (wrong-way deviation)
- Sustained downward deviation of the eyes (due to compression of the dorsal midbrain), sometime with convergence – "thalamic esotropia"
- Vertical saccadic palsy (especially down) when caudal thalamic lesions extend into the riMLF
- Ipsilateral or contralateral tilt of subjective visual vertical

### Pulvinar lesions

- Difficulties in shifting gaze into the contralateral hemifield
- Hemispatial neglect (especially with acute, right-sided lesions)

Leigh & Zee, 2015