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Abnormal ocular motilities in the pontine lesion

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Pons has the control tower for horizontal gaze in brainstem. Abducens nuclei and paramedian pontine reticular formation are important anatomical structures for horizontal conjugate eye movements and saccades. Internuclear ophthalmoplegia is the classic neurological sign from affecting medial longitudinal fasciculus. The cardinal sign of internuclear ophthalmoplegia is weakness of adduction by the eye on the side of the medial longitudinal fasciculus lesion during conjugate movements. In addition, ocular tilt reaction, tilt of subjective visual vertical, decreased gain of vestibule-ocular reflex, vertical torsional nystagmus can result from same lesion, because the medial longitudinal fasciculus contains many other pathways of vestibular system. Here, we discuss the representative ocular motor findings in the pontine lesion.

Key Words: Pons, Horizontal gaze, Internuclear ophthalmoplegia, Medial longitudinal fasciculus

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