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Seesaw nystagmus

Seesaw nystagmus is characterized by cyclic eye movements with a conjugate torsional component and a dissociated vertical component. In the first half of the cycle, one eye elevates and intorts, whereas the other eye depresses and extorts. The pattern is reversed in the remaining half of the cycle. We describe a patient with a giant pituitary adenoma who developed pendular seesaw nystagmus. Disturbance in the visuovestibular system is postulated to contribute to this form of seesaw nystagmus. Lesions compressing the optic chiasm and the accessory optic system could interrupt the transmission of retinal error signals to the inferior olivary nucleus and the interstitial nucleus of Cajal, thus interfering with the adaptive mechanism of the vestibulo-ocular reflex and leading to pendular seesaw nystagmus ¹⁾.

1)

Yat-Ming Woo P, Takemura S, Ming-Yan Cheong A, Chi-Ho Chu A, Chan Y, Wong HT, Chan KY. Pendular Seesaw Nystagmus in a Patient With a Giant Pituitary Macroadenoma: Pathophysiology and the Role of the Accessory Optic System. J Neuroophthalmol. 2017 Nov 9. doi: 10.1097/WNO.000000000000575. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29135813.

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