

ERRATA

**DIRECTION OF CURRENT IN MAGNETIC STIMULATING COILS USED
FOR PERCUTANEOUS ACTIVATION OF BRAIN, SPINAL CORD AND
PERIPHERAL NERVE**

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An error was made by both ourselves and the manufacturers of the Novamatrix Magstim 200 in measuring the direction of current flow in standard circular stimulating coils. In the publications listed below, we had assumed that when the circular coil was held centred on the vertex with the 'A' side up the initial conventional current in the coil flowed clockwise as viewed from above. This is not the case. With the coil held in this way the initial current within it flows in an anti-clockwise direction. In all these papers, the words 'clockwise stimulation' should be replaced by 'anti-clockwise stimulation' and vice versa. If the initial current in the coil flows anti-clockwise as viewed from above, then the left hemisphere is activated preferentially. Hence, the threshold for evoking muscle responses on the right side of the body is lower than that for the left. The situation is reversed when the initial direction of current is in the clockwise direction. This change does not affect any of the conclusions drawn in papers published in the Journal.

Papers affected in *The Journal of Physiology*:

- BRITTON, T. C., BROWN, P., DAY, B. L., MARSDEN, C. D., MERTON, P. A., ROTHWELL, J. C., THOMPSON, P. D. & UGAWA, Y. (1990). Can the cerebellum be stimulated through the intact scalp of man? *Journal of Physiology* **420**, 19P.
- DAY, B. L., DRESSLER, D., MAERTENS DE NOORDHOUT, A., MARSDEN, C. D., NAKASHIMA, K., ROTHWELL, J. C. & THOMPSON, P. D. (1989). Electric and magnetic stimulation of human motor cortex: surface EMG and single motor unit responses. *Journal of Physiology* **412**, 449-473.
- DAY, B. L., DRESSLER, D., MAERTENS DE NOORDHOUT, A., MARSDEN, C. D., ROTHWELL, J. C. & THOMPSON, P. D. (1988). Magnetic stimulation of the human brain can activate different neuronal elements when the magnetic field direction is reversed. *Journal of Physiology* **401**, 46P.
- HESS, C. W., MILLS, K. R. & MURRAY, N. M. F. (1987). Responses in small hand muscles from magnetic stimulation of the human brain. *Journal of Physiology* **388**, 397-419.

A complete list of affected publications in other journals may be obtained from the authors.