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Abnormal Eye Movements in Parkinsonism and Movement Disorders

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ABSTRACT

Abnormal eye movements are commonly observed in movement disorders. Ocular motility examination should include bedside evaluation and laboratory recording of ocular misalignment, involuntary eye movements, including nystagmus and saccadic intrusions/oscillations, triggered nystagmus, saccades, smooth pursuit (SP), and the vestibulo-ocular reflex. Patients with Parkinson's disease (PD) mostly show hypometric saccades, especially for the selfpaced saccades, and impaired SP. Early vertical saccadic palsy is characteristic of progressive supranuclear palsy-Richardson's syndrome. Patients with cortico-basal syndrome typically show a delayed onset of saccades. Downbeat and gaze-evoked nystagmus and hypermetric saccades are characteristic ocular motor findings in ataxic disorders due to cerebellar dysfunction. In this review, we discuss various ocular motor findings in movement disorders, including PD and related disorders, ataxic syndromes, and hyperkinetic movement disorders. Systemic evaluation of the ocular motor functions may provide valuable information for early detection and monitoring of movement disorders, despite an overlap in the abnormal eye movements among different movement disorders.

Key Words

Eye movements; parkinsonism; ataxia; saccades.



Abnormal eye movements are common and occasionally a prominent finding in movement disorders. These abnormal eye movements may follow or precede the motor symptoms of movement disorders. Accordingly, careful evaluation of the ocular motor functions may provide valuable information for early detection and monitoring of the disorders. Patterns of abnormal eye movements may provide a key for differential diagnosis among the disorders presenting similar clinical features. Furthermore, an accurate scale of the abnormal ocular motor function helps to elucidate the mechanisms of abnormal eye movements and the pathophysiology of the underlying disorders. 1,2

Ocular motility examination should include bedside evaluation and laboratory recording of ocular misalignment, range of eye motion, involuntary eye movements, triggered nystagmus, saccades, smooth pursuit (SP), the vestibulo-ocular reflex (VOR), optokinetic nystagmus (OKN), and vergence eye movements.^{3,4} Presence of any ocular misalignment should be confirmed with a cover test in the eccentric, as well as primary gaze, during both near and distant fixation. A moderate restriction of upward gaze is common in elderly individuals with or without parkinsonism.⁵ Involuntary eye movements include nystagmus or inappropriate saccades. Nystagmus should be distinguished from saccadic intrusions and oscillations. In nystagmus, the eyes drift away from the fixation target by slow eye motion, while the eyes become off-target by saccades in saccadic intrusion oscillations. Nystagmus is called "jerky" when the returning eye movements are saccades, and "pendular" when they are slow. Saccadic intrusions and oscillations may be further divided according to the presence [e.g., square wave jerks (SWJs) and macrosaccadic oscillations] and absence (ocular flutter and opsoclonus) of the intersaccadic interval. For proper evaluation of spontaneous nystagmus, one should observe the direction and effects of gaze on the intensity and direction of the nystagmus. Nystagmus may be triggered or modulated by various maneuvers, such as eccentric gazes (gaze-evoked nystagmus, GEN), horizontal headshaking, and positional changes.6

Saccades, both horizontal and vertical, should be assessed for latency, velocity, accuracy, and conjugacy.⁷ SP may be evaluated by asking the patient to track a small target moving slowly in the horizontal or vertical direction with the head still. If the pursuit movement does not match the target velocity, corrective

catch-up or back-up saccades would occur. Since many neural structures are involved in generation of SP, and various factors, including age, drugs, and alertness, can influence pursuit eye movements, impaired pursuit generally does not have a localizing value. Induction of OKN may be useful in some patients who have difficulty initiating voluntary saccades. The VOR may be evaluated bedside using head impulse tests (HIT), visual enhancement of the VOR, and visual cancellation of the VOR. Vergence is tested by having the patients look back and forth between a distant and a near target.

Although bedside evaluation is mostly sufficient to detect abnormal eye movements in movement disorders, laboratory recording of eye motion, mostly with video-oculography currently, may be utilized to detect subtle abnormalities or to quantify the impairments.

In this review, we will discuss various ocular motor findings in movement disorders including Parkinson's disease (PD) and related disorders, ataxic syndromes, and hyperkinetic movement disorders.

This study followed the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by Institutional Review Board of Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (IRB number: N-1811-502-601).

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS

Parkinson's disease

In general, ocular motor deficits in PD are not as prominent as in progressive supranuclear palsy syndrome (PSPS) or Huntington's disease (HD) and frequently require laboratory testing to bring out abnormalities. In PD, steady fixation may be disrupted by saccadic intrusions, such as SWJs, that are characterized by involuntary saccadic movements from and back to the fixation point with an intersaccadic interval of approximately 200 ms and an amplitude of 0.5°–5°. SWJs may be observed in normal elderly subjects, but the frequent and large SWJs in PD have been ascribed to compensatory increased activity in the frontal eye field. 5,10

Saccades are typically hypometric, especially vertically.⁵ Downward gaze paresis is not seen in PD, and if it is present, one

Table 1. Characteristics of ocular motor abnormalities in PD-related disorders

Diagnosis	SI	Horizontal saccades	Vertical saccades	Smooth pursuit	Blepharospasm or eyelid apraxia
PD	+	Hypometric	Hypometric	Mild	Very rare
PSPS	++	Slowed, late	Slowed, early	Severe	Common
CBS	+	Delayed	Impaired, late	Mild	Common
MSA	+	Hypometric	Hypometric	Moderate	Rare

PD: Parkinson's disease, SI: saccadic intrusions, PSPS: progressive supranuclear palsy syndrome, CBS: corticobasal syndrome, MSA: multiple systemic atrophy.

should consider the diagnosis of progressive supranuclear palsv-Richardson's syndrome (PSP-RS) (Table 1).^{2,11} Most patients with PD have difficulty making self-paced saccades between two continuously visible targets. When patients are verbally instructed to look between two widely spaced targets, PD patients typically make near-accurate saccades. However, when they are instructed to maintain this activity on their own, their saccades invariably become hypometric.¹² Hypometric voluntary saccades are supposed to be caused by increased inhibition of the superior colliculus (SC) and reduced preoculomotor drive due to dysfunction of frontal-basal ganglia-SC circuits.5 However, reflexive saccades can be generated by direct projections from the parietal cortex onto the saccade-related neurons in the intermediate layer of the SC.13 The latency and velocity of reflexive saccades are usually normal in PD. Since patients with PD have impaired inhibition of reflexive saccades to visual stimuli, testing of antisaccades may reveal abnormal executive function, even in the early stage of PD.¹⁴ In one study, errors in antisaccades were related to freezing of gait, and increased latency was associated with impaired postural control.¹⁵ Impaired inhibition of unwanted saccades may be associated with dopaminergic depletion in the prefrontal cortex, resulting in lack of suppression of the SC by the basal ganglia.

SP is usually impaired in PD.⁵ Combined eye-head tracking is abnormal to a similar degree as SP with the head stationary in most patients with PD.¹⁶ Even though low-frequency rotational and caloric vestibular responses may be reduced in patients with PD,¹⁷ the VOR gain is close to 1.0 at higher frequencies of head rotation, corresponding to natural activities, especially visual fixation.¹⁸ Patients also show abnormal eyelid movements, including reduced blinking, lid retraction and lid lag.^{19,20} Unlike patients with PSP-RS, patients with PD habituate their blink responses when a flashlight is repetitively shone into the eyes.¹⁹

Levodopa treatment may improve saccadic accuracy, SP, and convergence insufficiency.²¹⁻²³ Electrical stimulation of the pallidum or subthalamic nuclei was reported to improve performance on memory-guided or antisaccade tasks.^{24,25}

Progressive supranuclear palsy syndrome

PSPS, also known as the PSP-RS, is a clinical syndrome comprising vertical gaze palsy and balance difficulties with backward falls and mild dementia. ²⁶ The disturbance of eye movements is usually present early in the course of the disease but occasionally develops later. ²⁷ Patients with PSP-RS may present with visual complaints, such as blurred vision or photophobia. ²⁶

Steady fixation is frequently disrupted by saccadic intrusions.²⁸⁻³⁰ The SWJs are more common and larger in PSP-RS than in other parkinsonian disorders.^{27,28} The prominent saccadic intrusions might be related to involvement of the SC and

the adjacent central midbrain reticular formation.³¹

Horizontal saccades are initially hypometric but normal in speed. As the disease progresses, they also become slow. Vertical saccades are slower than horizontal ones of similar size (Figure 1, Supplementary Video 1 in the online-only Data Supplement). 18,32 The limitation of vertical saccades is more or less asymmetric.²⁷ Early on, vertical saccades may take a curved or oblique trajectory to the target ("round the houses" sign).³³ During large-field, vertical optokinetic stimulation, PSP-RS patients often show tonic deviation of the eyes in the direction of stripe motion, with small or absent resetting quick phases.³⁴ Vertical saccades are generated by "burst neurons" in the midbrain but horizontal saccades are generated by burst neurons in the pons. Thus, the selective involvement of vertical saccades in the early stage of PSP-RS indicates that the initial pathology involves the midbrain burst neurons, or their local circuitry (SC and the adjacent central mesencephalic reticular formation).³² The latency of horizontal saccades may be prolonged in some patients with PSP-RS, but others retain the ability to make short-latency or "express" saccades.35 Patients with PSP-RS also make errors in antisaccade tasks.³⁵ Both the presence of express saccades and errors in the antisaccade tasks suggest frontal lobe dysfunction.³⁶

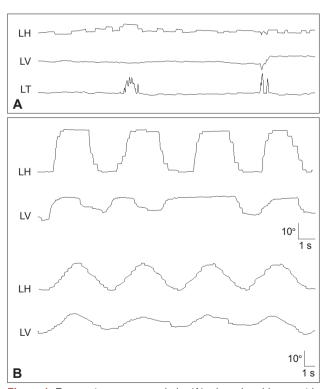


Figure 1. Frequent square wave jerks (A), slowed and hypometric saccades (B), and impaired SP are characteristic findings of progressive supranuclear palsy syndrome. Saccades and SP are more severely impaired in the vertical direction (B). LH: horizontal position of the left eye, LV: vertical position of the left eye, LT: torsional position of the left eye, SP: smooth pursuit.



Vertical SP or combined eye-head tracking may be relatively spared. Eventually, SP and saccades are both lost, constituting voluntary gaze palsy. The angular VOR is relatively preserved until the late stages of PSP-RS, however, the linear VOR is markedly impaired. ^{37,38} Bell's phenomenon is usually absent. Convergence eye movements are commonly impaired. ³⁹ Late in the disease, the ocular motor deficit progresses into a complete ophthalmoplegia.

Patients with PSP-RS may show several eyelid abnormalities, including blepharospasm, lid-opening or eye-closing apraxia, lid retraction, and lid lag. 40,41 Quite consistently, patients cannot inhibit a blink when a penlight is shone into the eyes (visual glabelar or Myerson's sign). 40

Other disorders

Patients with cortico-basal syndrome (CBS) frequently present with the clinical features of PSPS and may be misdiagnosed as having PSPS due to vertical supranuclear gaze palsy and falls within the first 2 years. 18,42 However, patients with CBS had a delayed onset of vertical supranuclear gaze palsy, i.e., more than 3 years after symptom onset, and had predominant downgaze abnormalities. Furthermore, patients with CBS show a significantly increased latency of horizontal saccades while the patients with PSPS mostly manifest with decreased saccadic velocity. In the early stage of CBS, SP may be slow, but the range of movements is generally full. As the illness progresses, patients with CBS gradually lose the ability to make saccades to verbal commands, with retained spontaneous saccades and OKN. Slepharospasm and eyelid opening apraxia may be observed.

Multiple systemic atrophy (MSA) is subdivided into cerebellar (MSA-C) and parkinsonian MSA (MSA-P).⁴⁵ Patients with MSA-C may show saccadic intrusions, downbeat and gazeevoked nystagmus, perverted downbeat head-shaking nystagmus and positional downbeat nystagmus along with impaired smooth ocular and eye-head pursuit and saccadic dysmetria.^{46,47}

Dementia with Lewy bodies may be associated with vertical gaze palsy, 48,49 but systematic measurements of vertical saccades are not available to date.

ATAXIC DISORDERS

Substantial advances have been made in defining and understanding the molecular biology of the hereditary ataxias. ⁵⁰ With the identification of genes responsible for the hereditary ataxias, attempts have been made to identify distinctive syndromes of abnormal eye movements and to link those phenotypes with genotypes. ⁵¹⁻⁵⁴ Even though findings are quite distinctive for some gene mutations causing ataxia, there is an overlap in the abnormal eye movements among different genotypes, and sub-

stantial phenotypic variation even in those with the same mutation.⁵⁵

There are three principal cerebellar syndromes; 1) the syndrome of the flocculus and paraflocculus, 2) the syndrome of the nodulus and ventral uvula, and 3) the syndrome of the dorsal vermis (lobules VI and VII) and underlying caudal fastigial nuclei. In addition, the cerebellar hemispheres contribute to the control of eye movements. ⁵⁶ Understanding the characteristic eye movement abnormalities in each syndrome seems vital for interpretation of underlying cerebellar dysfunction in various ataxic disorders.

Lesions involving the flocculus and paraflocculus give rise to downbeat, and gaze-evoked and rebound nystagmus.⁵⁷ Inactivation of the flocculus severely impairs smooth tracking with the eyes alone, but active eye-head tracking is spared. Saccades are generally spared, but postsaccadic drift may be observed due to a pulse-step mismatch. Unilateral lesions produce ipsilateral deficits in pursuit and gaze holding. In patients with cerebellar disease, defects in SP, combined eye-head tracking, and gaze-holding frequently occur together.⁵⁸ The VOR may by enhanced during low frequency and velocity stimulation, but may be impaired during HIT with high velocity and acceleration.⁵⁹ Adaptation of the VOR is also impaired in floccular lesions.⁶⁰

Lesions of the nodulus and ventral uvula generate positional nystagmus, especially downbeat and apogeotropic, periodic alternating nystagmus (PAN), perverted downbeat head-shaking nystagmus, increase in the duration of vestibular responses, and a failure of tilt-suppression of postrotatory nystagmus.⁶¹⁻⁶⁷

Experimental lesions of the dorsal vermis and fastigial nuclei cause saccadic dysmetria, typically hypometria if the vermis alone is involved, and hypermetria if the deep nuclei are involved. Esions involving the dorsal vermis also produce deficits of SP, especially at onset. Patients with dorsal vermis lesions show moderate, ipsilateral deficits of sustained pursuit. Similarly, inactivation of one fastigial nucleus impairs the onset of contralateral pursuit but enhances acceleration of ipsilateral pursuit.

Spinocerebellar ataxia

Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA) is a group of autosomal dominant neurodegenerative disorders that are genetically and clinically heterogenous. Previous reports have documented various abnormalities of eye movements in patients with SCA, providing clues for the differential diagnosis of SCA based on ocular motor phenotypes (Table 2). Due to a significant overlap in the phenotypes, however, caution is necessary in trying to assign a patient to one group on the basis of eye movement findings alone. Nonetheless, the presence of very slow saccades is suggestive of SCA2 (Figure 2), in which pontine saccadic burst

Table 2. Characteristic ocular motor abnormalities in ataxic disorders

Diagnosis	Nystagmus or SI	Saccades abnormality	SP/OKN impairment	VOR gain
SCA1	GEN	Moderately slow	Moderate	Normal
SCA2		Severely slow	Mild	Normal
SCA3	Nystagmus, SWJ	Mildly slow	Moderate	Moderate
SCA6	Downbeat, GEN, SWJ	Normal velocity	Severe	Normal
SCA7	Nystagmus, SI	Severely slow in the late stage and hypo or hypermetria	Moderate	
EA2	Downbeat GEN, positional nystagmus	Normal	Severe	Normal
FA	SWJ or ocular flutter	Normal velocity and prolonged latency	Impaired	Impaired

SCA: spinocerebellar ataxia, EA2: episodic ataxia type 2, FA: Friedreich ataxia, SI: saccadic intrusions, GEN: gaze-evoked nystagmus, SP: smooth pursuit, SWJ: square wave jerks, OKN: optokinetic nystagmus, VOR: vestibulo-ocular reflex.

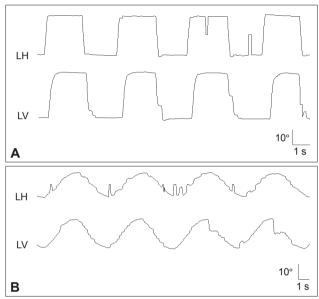


Figure 2. Patient with spinocerebellar ataxia type 2 shows slowed saccades especially in the vertical plane (A) and impaired smooth pursuit in both horizontal and vertical planes (B). LH: horizontal position of the left eye, LV: vertical position of the left eye.

neurons are involved. However, saccades may also be slow in patients with SCA1, SCA7, and SCA28. Impaired VOR is a common feature in SCA3. The presence of prominent downbeat, gaze-evoked, and rebound nystagmus with normal saccade velocity is typical of SCA6 and episodic ataxia type 2 (EA2).

In SCA1, GEN and pursuit abnormalities are frequently observed, and the prevalence of ophthalmoplegia is higher than that of other SCAs. The presence of ophthalmoplegia is correlated with higher ataxia score and poorer functional stage. This indicates involvement of ocular motor neurons in later stages of SCA1. Since the characteristic pathological finding of SCA2 is the loss of burst neurons in the brainstem, saccadic slowing as well as increased saccadic latency is common in this disorder. During follow-up, annual progression rates are significantly higher in patients with SCA2. SCA3, also named Machado-Joseph disease, is the most common form of autosomal domi-

nant ataxia. Nystagmus is present in 88% of patients with SCA3 and the symptomatic patients with nystagmus tend to have a higher length of the CAG tract in the expanded allele.⁷³ Saccadic intrusions such as SWJs are frequent in SCA3. SCA6 is regarded a pure cerebellar form of SCA.74,75 Downbeat and gaze-evoked nystagmus are frequent in SCA6.76 Perverted downbeat head shaking nystagmus may be a distinct feature of SCA6.76 The VOR gain during horizontal HIT shows a negative correlation with the ataxia score while the VOR gain in response to relatively low frequency stimuli remains normal or increased regardless of disease severity (Figure 3).77 SCA7 is characterized by retinal degeneration and ophthalmoplegia.⁷⁸ Oculomotor findings of SCA7 include nystagmus, saccadic intrusions, saccadic hypoand hypermetria, slow saccades, impaired SP and VOR cancellation, and late in the illness, ophthalmoparesis and ophthalmoplegia.⁷⁹ SCA31 is also a pure cerebellar form of ataxia, making it difficult to distinguish SCA31 from SCA6 based on clinical findings only. The onset age is slightly higher, and the frequency of positional downbeat nystagmus is lower, in SCA31 than in SCA6.80

Friedreich ataxia

Friedreich ataxia (FA) is the most common cause of autosomal recessive ataxias with an onset usually before age 20 years. FA is characterized by ataxia, hyporeflexia, extensor plantar reflexes, neuropathy, cardiomyopathy, and diabetes. FA is mostly due to an unstable GAA repeat expansion within intron 1 of frataxin. Abnormal ocular motor findings of FA include fixation instability manifesting as SWJs and ocular flutter. Accadic velocity is essentially normal, saccadic latency is prolonged. The latency correlates with clinical measures of disease severity. Saccades may be both hypo- and hypermetric. SP and the VOR may be impaired. Acloric tests are abnormal in the majority of FA patients. Thus, severe vestibulopathy with essentially normal saccadic velocity are hallmarks of FA and differentiate it from a number of dominant SCA.



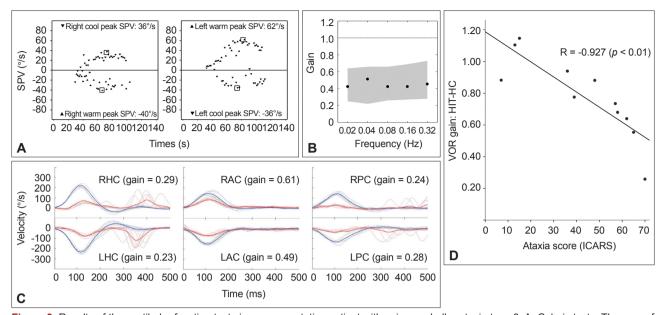


Figure 3. Results of the vestibular function tests in a representative patient with spinocerebellar ataxia type 6. A. Caloric tests. The sum of the peak SPV of the nystagmus in response to each caloric stimulus is increased at 174°/s (normal range=45–157°/s). B. Rotatory chair test. The gains of the VOR are normal during sinusoidal horizontal accelerations. Gray areas represent the normal ranges (mean ± 2SD). C. Head impulse tests. Head impulses in the plane of each SCC revealed decreased gain of the VOR for all six semicircular canals with overt catch-up saccades during stimulation of the horizontal and posterior SCCs. The blue lines indicate head velocity and the red lines represent eye velocity. D. The head impulse VOR gain for the HC is negatively correlated with the ataxia score as measured using the ICARS. SPV: slow-phase velocity, VOR: vestibulo-ocular reflex, SCC: semicircular canal, LAC: left anterior SCC, LHC: left horizontal SCC, LPC: left posterior SCC, RAC: right anterior SCC, RHC: right horizontal SCC, RPC: right posterior SCC, ICARS: International Cooperative Ataxia Rating Scale, HIT-HC: head impulse testing in the horizontal semicircular canal plane.

Episodic ataxia

Episodic ataxia (EA) is a genetic disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of truncal ataxia and incoordination lasting minutes to hours. ⁸⁸ EA is a heterogeneous group of disorders mostly with an autosomal dominant inheritance. ^{89,90} Several subtypes have been defined according to clinical and genetic characteristics. ⁹¹ Among the subtypes, EA2 is most common. Patients with EA2 mostly suffer from recurrent ataxia and slurred speech for several hours. ⁸⁸ Even between the attacks, downbeat, gazeevoked, rebound and positional nystagmus are typically observed (Figure 4). ⁹² The onset is mostly before the age of 20 years, but may be delayed. ⁹³ The common triggers of the attacks are exercise, and physical or emotional stress. ⁹⁴ Acetazolamide and aminopyridine have been found to reduce the frequency of attacks and improve the quality of life in patients with EA2. ⁸⁸

Ataxia telangiectasia

Ataxia telangiectasia (AT) is an autosomal recessive disorder characterized clinically by progressive ataxia, dystonia, parkinsonism, choreoathetosis, myoclonus, tremor, and ocular and cutaneous telangiectasia. Patients with AT also have immunodeficiency, endocrine abnormalities, radiosensitivity, and a predisposition to neoplasia. Eye movement abnormalities in AT include 1) spontaneous, gaze-evoked and periodic alternating nystagmus, microsaccadic oscillations, and SWJs. 2) im-

paired generation of volitional and reflexive saccades (characterized by prolonged latency and hypometria) in association with head "thrusts" during attempted shifts of gaze, and 3) impairment of pursuit eye movements, VOR and convergence. ^{100,101} These abnormal eye movements most likely result from dysfunction of the cerebellar flocculus and paraflocculus, and from abnormal supranuclear control of the SC due to dysfunction of the cerebellar vermis or the basal ganglia.

Ataxia-oculomotor apraxia

Ataxia-oculomotor apraxia (AOA) is an autosomal recessive disorder characterized by early onset ataxia, choreoathetosis, and ocular motor apraxia mimicking AT but without extraneurological features of this disease. ¹⁰² AOA type 1 (AOA1) is caused by mutations in the aprataxin gene (APTX) on chromosome 9p13. ¹⁰³ Aprataxin is a nuclear protein that repairs single-strand DNA breaks. ^{104,105} Patients with AOA1 also may show hypercholesterolemia, hypoalbuminaemia, and deficiency of muscle coenzyme Q10. ^{106,107} Most patients with AOA1 show saccade initiation difficulties. When the head is restrained, patients make a series of small saccades (horizontal or vertical) at normal latency to shift their gaze. Although small, the saccades are normal in speed for their size. When the head is free, patients make large head movements that overshoot the target, with their eyes in contraversion, and then rotating their head back to bring their

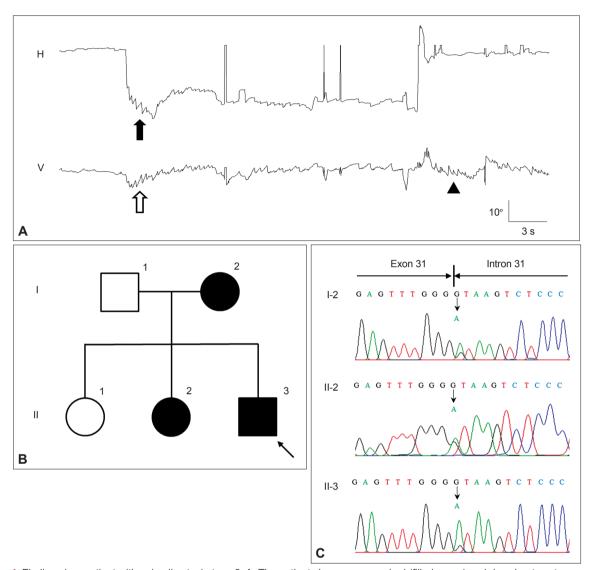


Figure 4. Findings in a patient with episodic ataxia type 2. A: The patient shows gaze-evoked (filled arrow) and downbeat nystagmus (open arrow) during leftward gaze that decrease gradually. On resuming the neutral position (arrow) head), upbeat nystagmus develops without rebound nystagmus in the horizontal plane. Upward deflection indicates rightward and upward eye motion. H: horizontal eye position, V: vertical eye position. B: Pedigree of the patient. Squares males, circles females, open symbols unaffected, solid symbols affected. C. The chromatograms of a part of exon 31 and intron 31 of CACNA1A show a heterozygous point mutation at the splice donor site (c.4953+1G>A).

eyes back to the central position in the orbit. Other findings include SWJs, gaze-evoked nystagmus, and impaired SP. 108

AOA type 2 (AOA2) is caused by mutations of the senataxin gene on chromosome 9q34, which also causes a failure to repair single-strand DNA breaks. 109-112 The clinical features of AOA2 are similar to those of AOA1 with prominent hypometria of horizontal and vertical saccades, requiring a staircase of saccades to shift the gaze, but with normal saccadic latency and speed.¹¹³ Other ocular motor findings include SWJs, gaze-evoked, rebound, and downbeat nystagmus, impaired SP, vergence dysfunction with exophoria, and normal or increased vestibulo-ocular responses. However, head movements are not prominent in AOA2 and are not used to shift gaze by overshooting the target.113 Patients also show impaired antisaccades and memoryguided saccades.113

Paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration

Patients with paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration (PCD) usually present with rapidly progressive dizziness and imbalance. In addition to gait and appendicular ataxia, examination almost always shows abnormal eye movements due to cerebellar dysfunction, which include downbeat, gaze-evoked, seesaw and positional nystagmus, ocular flutter, opsoclonus, saccadic dysmetria, and impaired SP (Figure 5).63,114-117



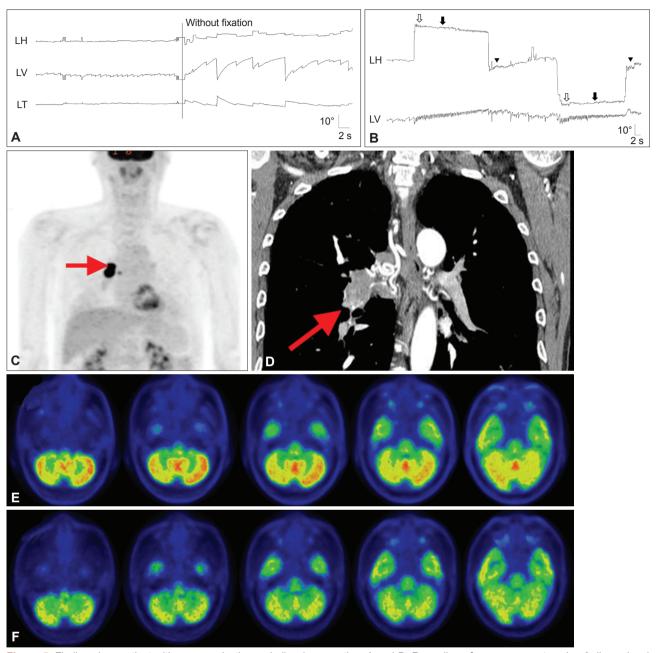


Figure 5. Findings in a patient with paraneoplastic cerebellar degeneration. A and B: Recording of eye movements using 3-dimensional video-oculography shows spontaneous downbeat nystagmus (DBN) with decreasing slow phases, which increases without fixation (A). DBN increases during lateral gazes with horizontal gaze-evoked (hollow arrows), centripetal (arrows), and rebound nystagmus (arrow heads) (B). C and D: Whole body 2-deoxy-2-[F18]fluoro-D-glucose-positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) (C) and chest CT (D) show a hypermetabolic mass in the right lower lobe of the lung (arrows). E: Brain FDG-PET reveals increased metabolism, especially in the nodulus. F: The hypermetabolism observed on the initial PET disappeared after right lung lobectomy and chemotherapy.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

Patients with HD often show impaired initiation of saccades with prolonged latencies, especially when the saccade is made to command or in anticipation of a predictable target. ¹¹⁸ Saccadic latency may be used as a marker of disease progression given its direct correlation with the severity of HD. ^{119,120} Patients

frequently use an obligatory blink or head turn to start eye movements. Paradoxically, patients often cannot suppress saccades during fixation, with increased visual distractibility. Saccades to visual stimuli are made at normal latency, while those made to command are delayed. Patients with HD also make increased errors during the antisaccade task. In preclinical stages of HD, increase in saccadic latency and error rates may pre-

dict the age of symptom onset.¹²³ In some patients, saccades may be slow in both horizontal and vertical planes. SP may also be impaired, but gaze holding and the VOR are well-preserved.¹²¹ Fixation may be abnormal due to saccadic intrusions (Figure 6).¹²¹

OTHER DISORDERS

Essential tremor

Compared with normal controls, patients with essential tremor more frequently show perverted downbeat head-shaking nystagmus, positional downbeat nystagmus, reduced gain of pursuit initiation, and impaired suppression of postrotational nystagmus with head tilt, all suggestive of underlying cerebellar dysfunction. ^{124,125} Another study reported higher prevalence of slowed SWJs and delayed saccades, which were independent of disease duration, tremor severity, and medication. ¹²⁶

Wilson's disease

Detection of Kayser-Fleischer rings is diagnostic of Wilson's disease. Ocular motor abnormalities in Wilson's disease include distractibility of gaze, slow vertical saccades, and lid-opening apraxia (Figure 7).^{127,128}

Whipple's disease

Whipple's disease may mimic parkinsonism or PSPS by involving the basal ganglia and rostral mesencephalon. ¹²⁹ Initially, vertical saccades may be slow and curved while horizontal

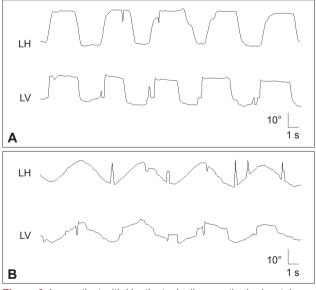


Figure 6. In a patient with Huntington's disease, the horizontal saccades are markedly slowed (A). In the vertical plane, slowing is more prominent during downward saccades. In contrast, vertical SP is severely impaired while the horizontal SP is relatively preserved (B). LH: horizontal position of the left eye, LV: vertical position of the left eye, SP: smooth pursuit.

saccades may be relatively preserved. It is almost always accompanied by a supranuclear vertical gaze palsy. Eventually, all eye movements may be lost. Oculomasticatory myorhythmia is virtually pathognomonic of this disease, and consists of rhythmic movements of the masticatory and occasionally other skeletal muscles, synchronized with pendular vergence oscillations of the eyes. However, many patients with Whipple's disease have no ocular oscillations.

CONCLUSIONS

Patients with movement disorders show nearly all kinds of eye movement abnormalities. In general, increased SI, increased saccadic latency and saccadic hypometria, and impaired SP are quite common in movement disorders and have little differential diagnostic value among the disorders. However, saccadic slowing indicates damage to the burst neurons in the pons (horizontal) and mesodiencephalic junction (vertical) and their outflow tracts and thus characterizes the disorders involving the brainstem. This phenomenon is also observed in PSPS and MSA. Decreased VOR also suggests damage to the brainstem and peripheral vestibular organs, In contrast, downbeat, gaze-evoked, rebound and positional nystagmus, hypermetric saccades, and hyperactive VOR are ocular motor findings specific for cerebellar dysfunction. Thus, despite the wide overlap in ocular motor abnormalities among movement disorders, scrutinized evaluation of all subclasses of eye movements would provide valuable information on the underlying pathology, differential diagnosis and monitoring of disease progression.

Supplementary Video Legends

Video 1. Saccades are severely impaired in the vertical direction in progressive supranuclear palsy syndrome.

Supplementary Materials

The online-only Data Supplement is available with this article at https://doi.org/10.14802/jmd.18034.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

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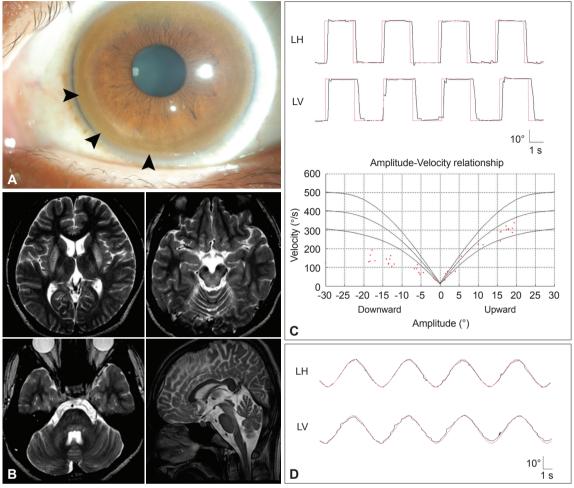


Figure 7. Findings in a patient with Wilson's disease. A: Kayser-Fleischer ring. Color external photograph shows Kayser-Fleischer ring (arrows), a golden-brown discoloration of the cornea due to deposition of sulfur-copper complexes within the Descemet's membrane. B: T2-weighted MRIs reveal symmetrical high signal intensity lesions in the putamina, thalami, midbrain and pontine tegmentum. C: Video-oculographic recording (SMI®, Teltow, Germany) of saccades shows selective slowing of downward saccades while the velocities of horizontal and upward saccades are normal. D: Smooth pursuit is impaired in the vertical direction. LH: horizontal position of the left eye, LV: vertical position of the left eye.

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