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Review Article

Acquired pendular nystagmus

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Highlights

- Acquired pendular nystagmuses are quasi-sinusoidal eye oscillations.
- Demyelinating disorders, visual deficits or disorders of inferior olive are common causes.
- Pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, and therapy of acquired pendular nystagmus are reviewed.

Abstract

Acquired pendular nystagmus is comprised of quasi-sinusoidal oscillations of the eyes significantly affecting gaze holding and clarity of vision. The most common causes of

acquired pendular nystagmus include demyelinating disorders such as multiple sclerosis and the syndrome of ocular palatal tremor. However, several other deficits, such as pharmacological intoxication, metabolic and genetic disorders, and granulomatous disorders can lead to syndromes mimicking acquired pendular nystagmus. Study of the kinematic features of acquired pendular nystagmus has suggested a putative pathophysiology of an otherwise mysterious neurological disorder. Here we review clinical features of neurological deficits that co-occur with acquired pendular nystagmus. Subsequent discussion of the pathophysiology of individual forms of pendular nystagmus speculates on mechanisms of the underlying disease while providing insights into pharmacotherapy of nystagmus.



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Keywords

Demyelination disorder; Multiple sclerosis; Stroke; Degenerative disorder; Toxin exposure

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Acquired pendular nystagmus, it's amazing.