

Magnetic Vestibular Stimulation as treatment option for patients with neglect

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Recently, it was discovered that the static magnetic field of an MRI scanner not only causes horizontal vestibular nystagmus in healthy individuals but, in addition, leads to a horizontal bias of spatial orienting and exploration that closely resembles the one observed in stroke patients with spatial neglect. The present study asked whether the behavioural effects of this magnetic vestibular stimulation (MVS) can be inverted and thus be used to reduce the pathological bias of stroke patients with spatial neglect. Results indicate that an intervention as simple as lying in a 3T MRI scanner bears the potential to become an integral part of a future strategy for treating spatial neglect.