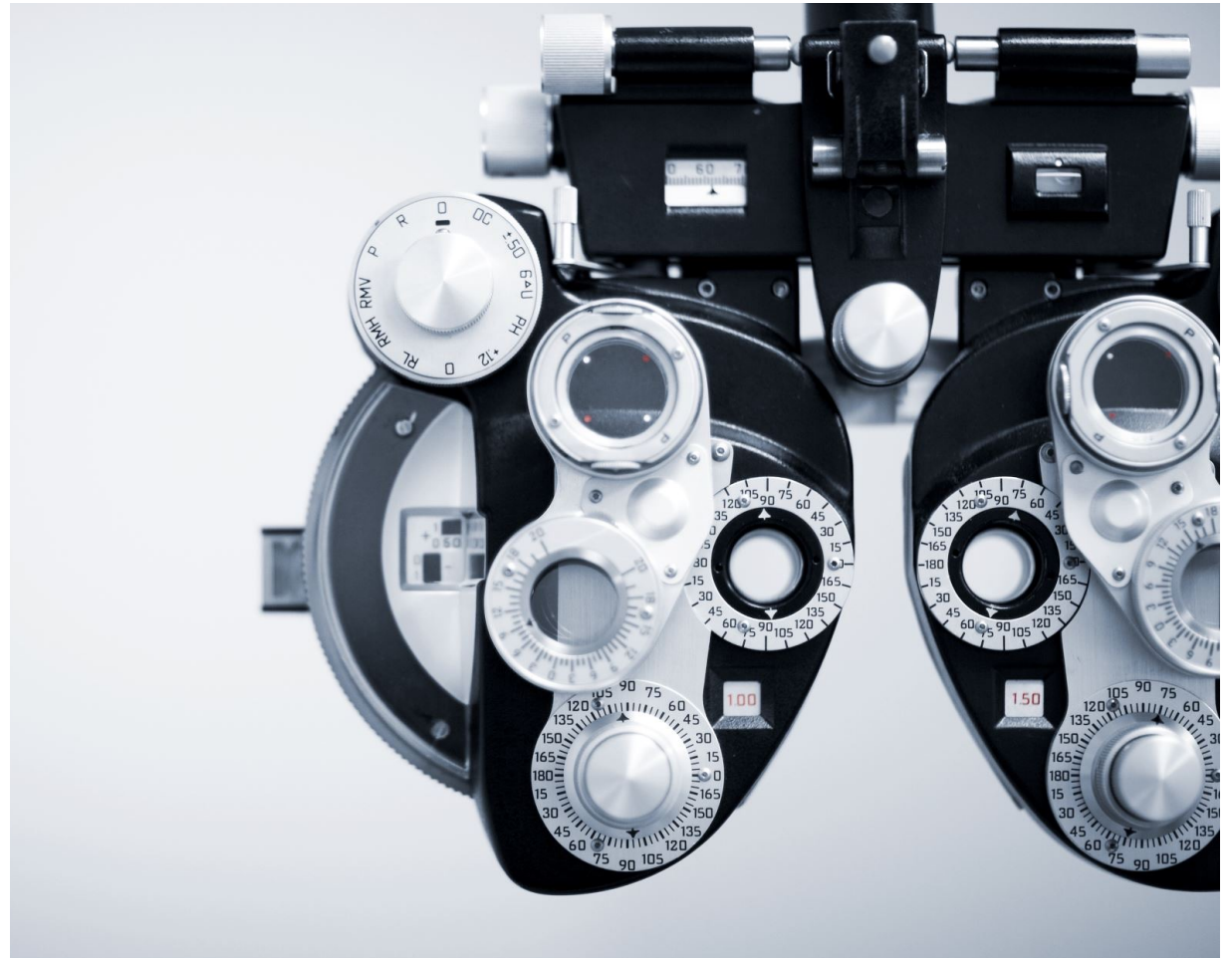


Double vision- Differentials and work up

Lakshmi Leishangthem

Assistant Professor

UCONN Health



Disclosures

No Disclosure





Objectives

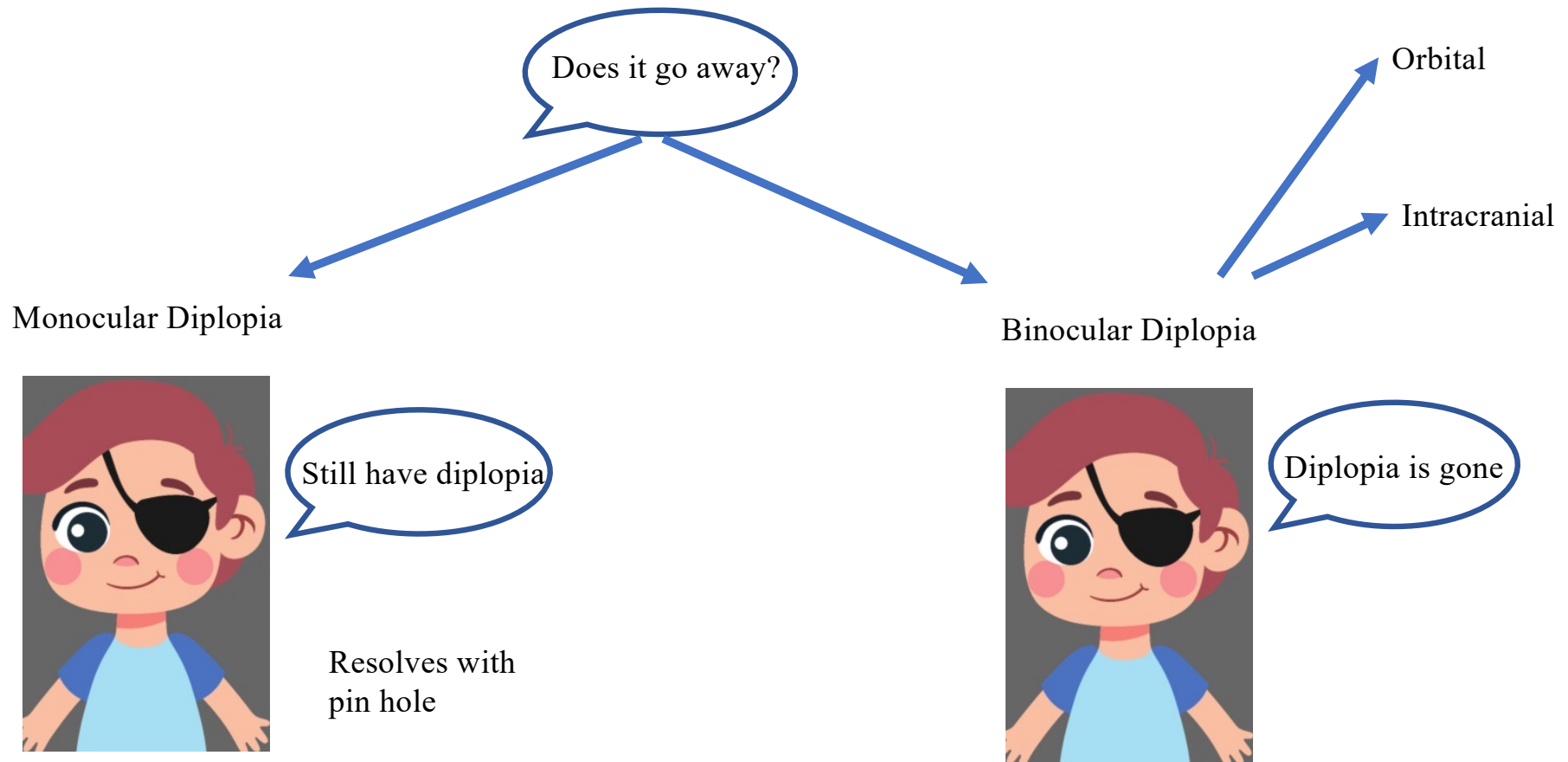
1. Review the patterns of cranial neuropathies causing double vision.
2. Review differentials of double vision etiologies.
3. Review supra nuclear causes and neuro muscular causes of double vision.
4. Review the evaluation and management of diplopia.
5. Review when to consider an urgent work up versus routine work up.

Approach to Diplopia



Is it double vision or blurry vision?

Diplopia- Questions to ask ?



Pattern
recognition is
Vital !!

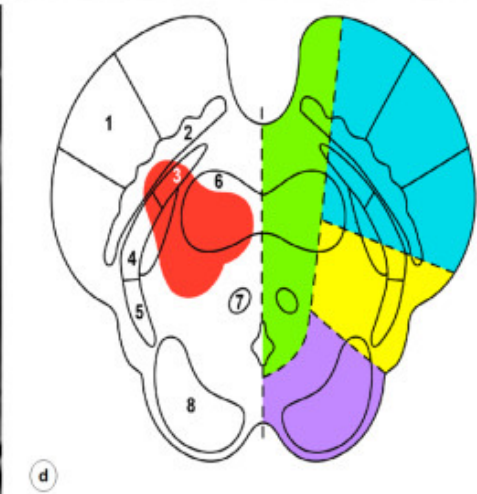
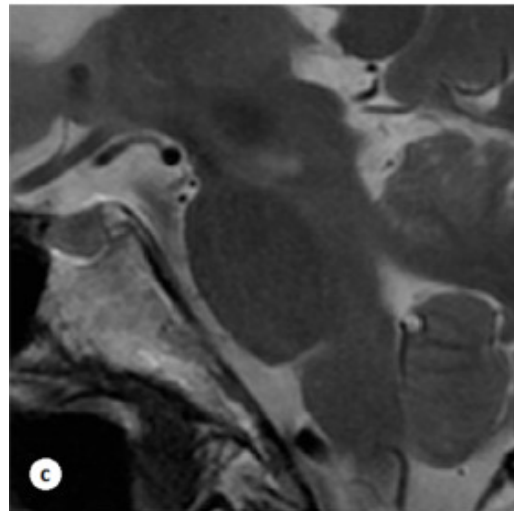
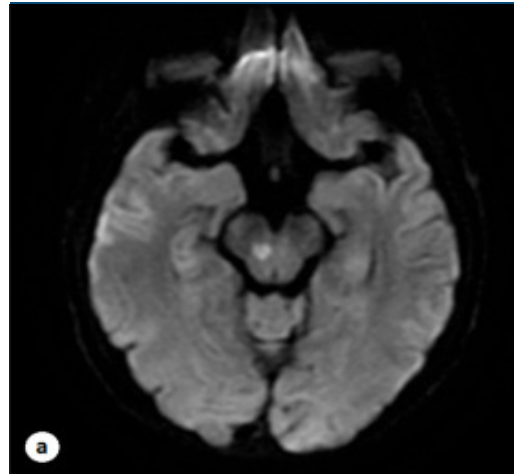
Helps in
identifying the
location of the
problem



Its all about
localization !



Its all about
localization!



Does it look
like a zebra or a
unicorn?

Localization !!!



Globe

- Cornea
- Lens
- Retina

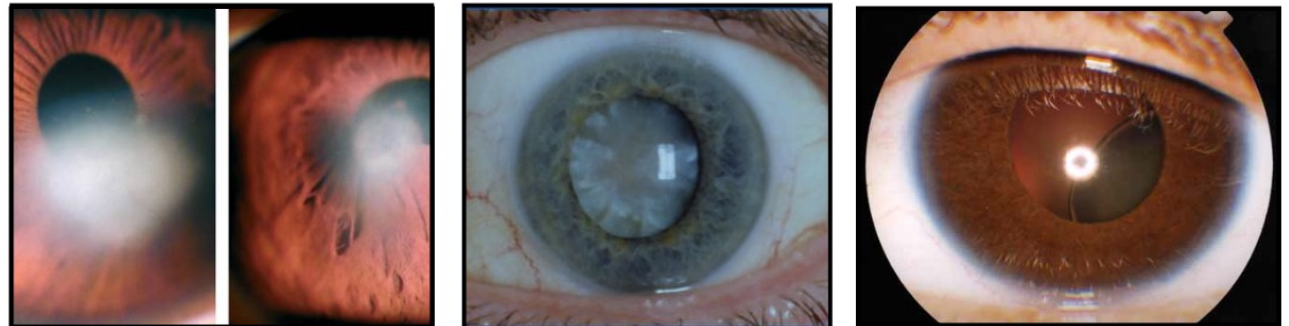
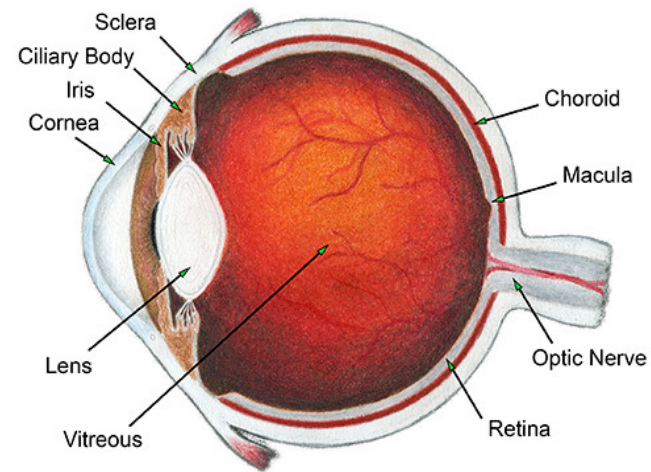
Optic nerve

Chiasm

Optic tract

Optic Radiation

Localization –Afferent Pathway



Globe

- Cornea
- Lens
- Retina

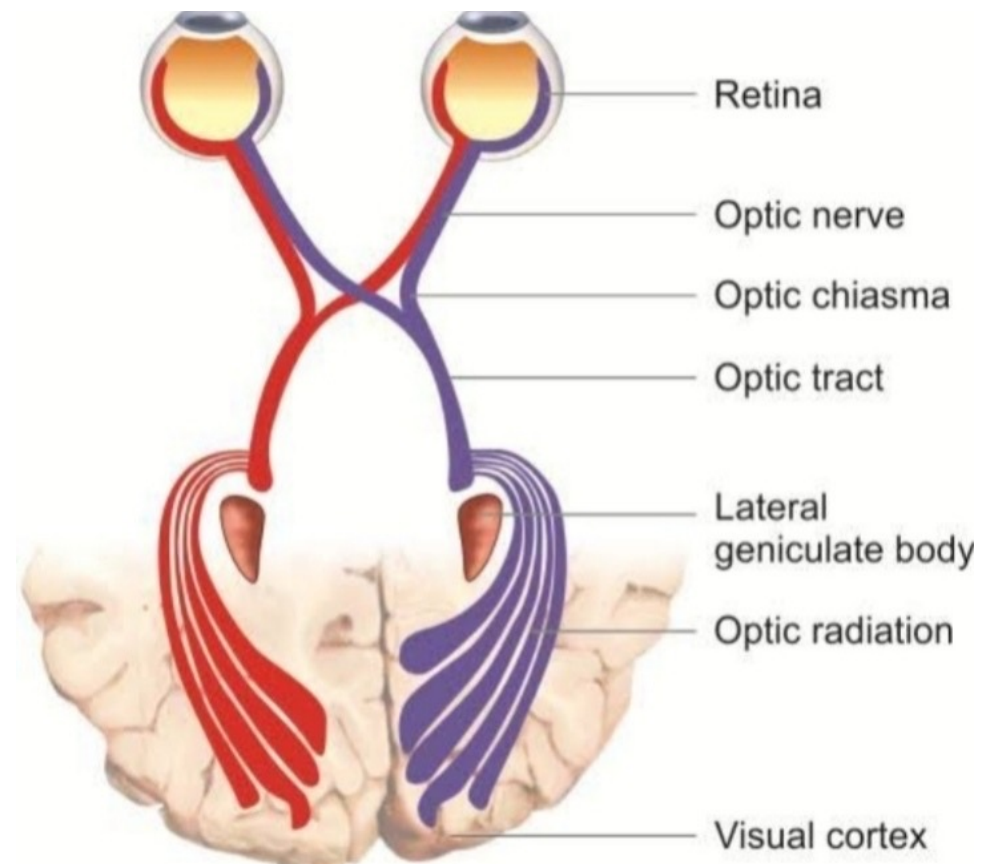
Optic nerve

Chiasm

Optic tract

Optic Radiation

Localization – Afferent Pathway





Localization –Efferent Pathway

Muscle

NM junction

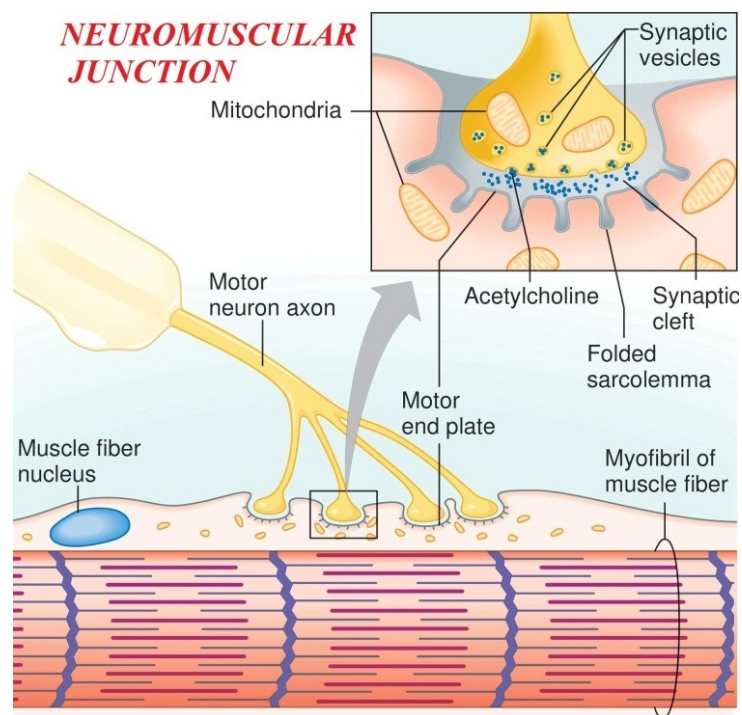
Nerve

- Orbit
- Orbital Apex
- Cavernous Sinus
- Subarachnoid space
- Brainstem

Nucleus

Internuclear

Supra nuclear



Muscle

NM junction

Nerve

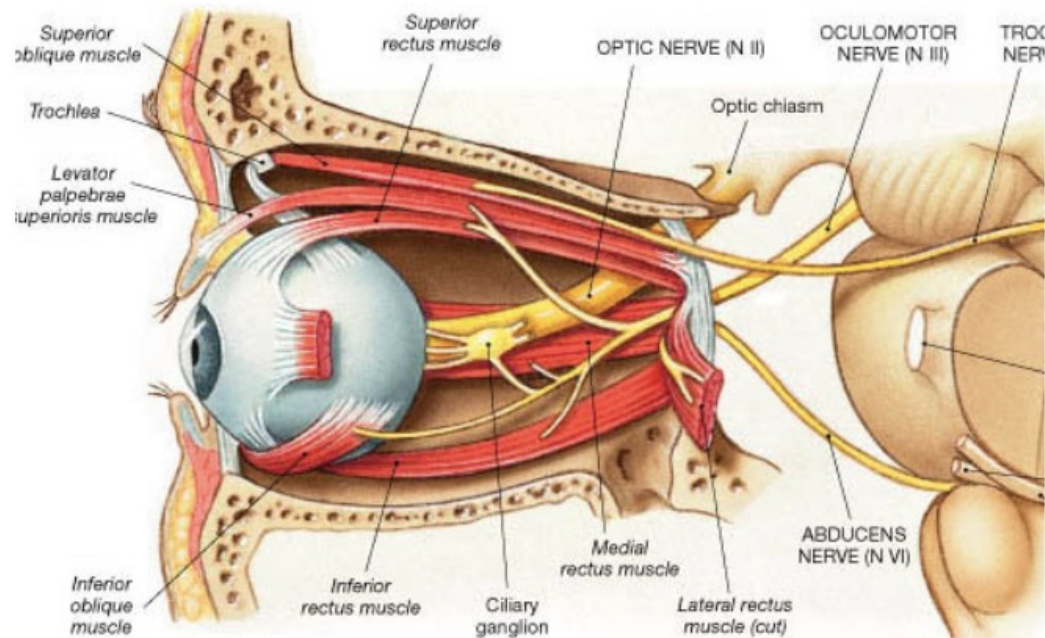
- Orbit
- Orbital Apex
- Cavernous Sinus
- Subarachnoid space
- Brainstem

Nucleus

Internuclear

Supra nuclear

Localization –Efferent Pathway





Localization –Efferent Pathway

Muscle

NM junction

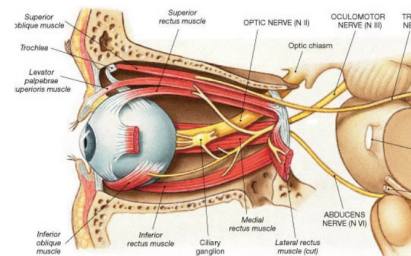
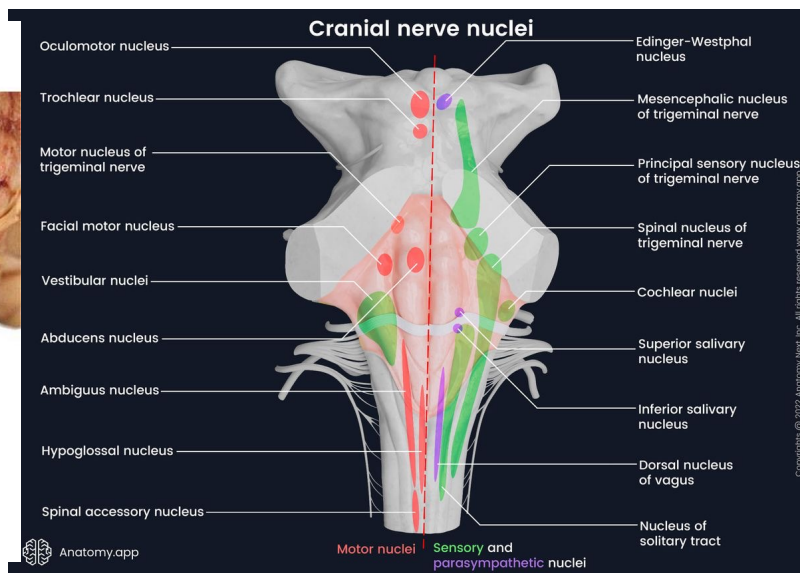
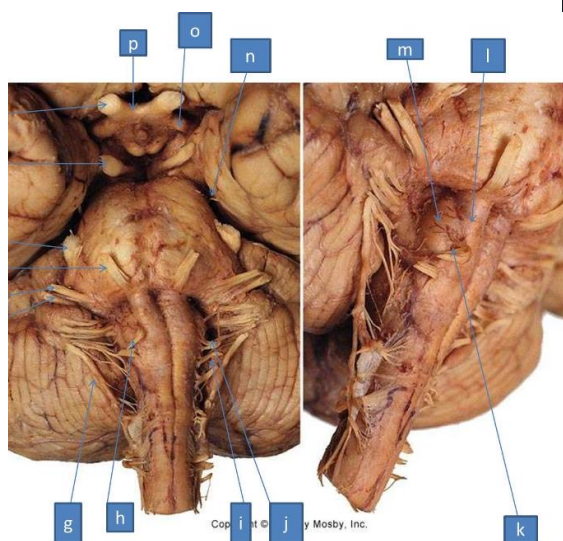
Nerve

- Orbit
- Orbital Apex
- Cavernous Sinus
- Subarachnoid space
- Brainstem

Nucleus

Internuclear

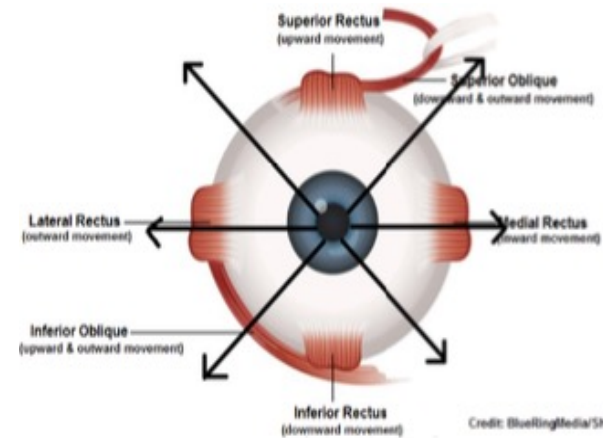
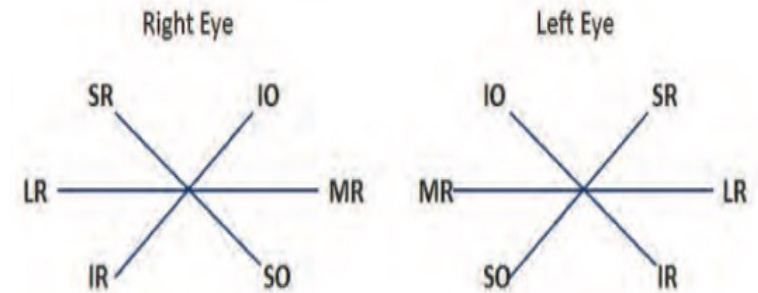
Supra nuclear



Extra ocular muscles and actions

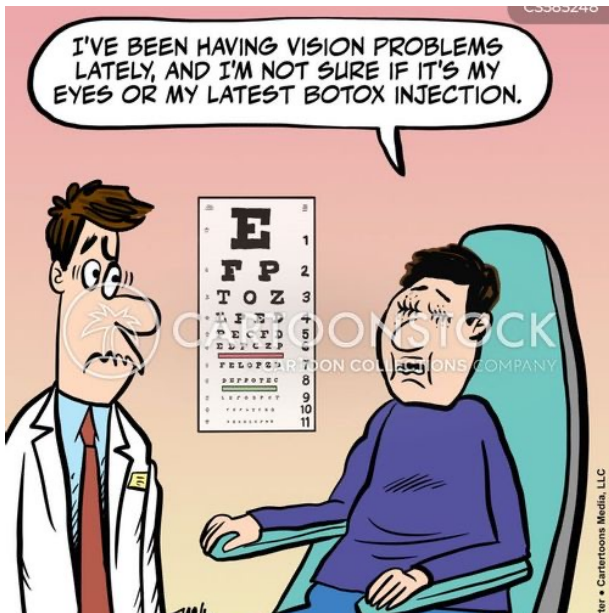


Extraocular Muscle	Primary Action	Secondary Action	Tertiary Action
Lateral rectus	Abduction	None	None
Medial rectus	Adduction	None	None
Superior rectus	Elevation	Inclotorsion	Adduction
Inferior rectus	Depression	Excyclotorsion	Adduction
Superior oblique	Inclotorsion	Depression	Abduction
Inferior oblique	Excyclotorsion	Elevation	Abduction



Credit: BlueRingMedia/Shutterstock.com

Detective work – Called history taking ! A Neuro –ophthalmology superpower !



Diplopia –what questions to ask?



- Acute vs Chronic vs subacute
- Constant vs intermittent
- Horizontal/vertical/diagonal
- Limitation with eye movement
- Diplopia that changes with different gazes
- Is it worse at distance or at near?
- What brings it on ?
- Pain on eye movements
- Associated neuro symptoms – Dizziness , gait difficulty
- Fatigability, ptosis, SOB, change in voice
- Headaches, weight loss, chills/fever



Left gaze: no deviation



Primary position: right esotropia



Right gaze: larger right esotropia

History



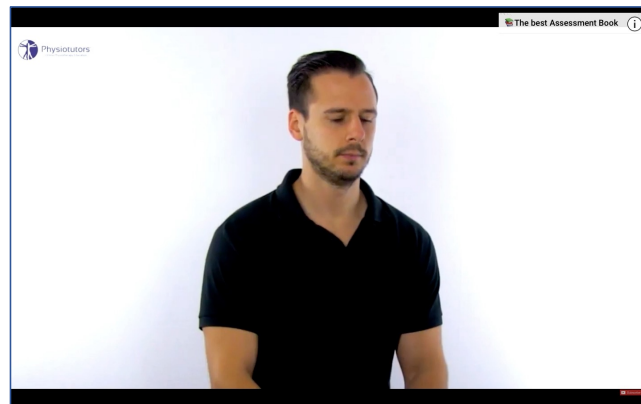
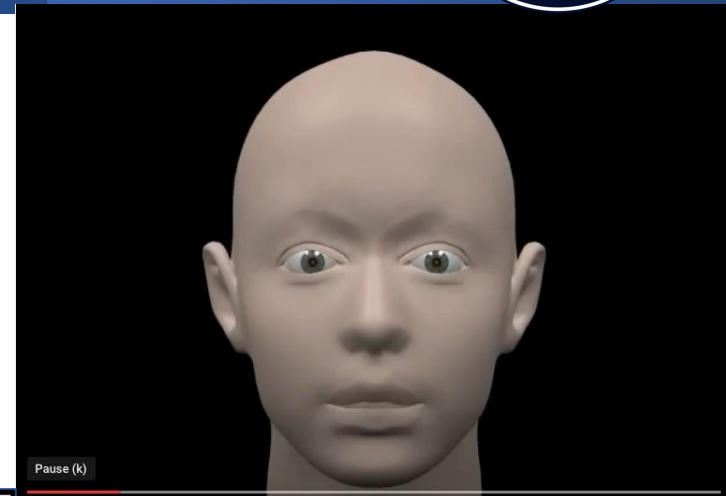
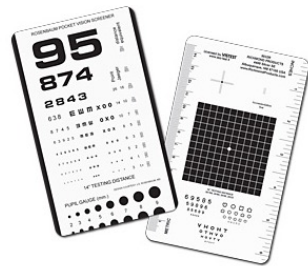
- Age
- PMH
 - Diabetes/HTN/HLD/smoking
 - Other neurologic PMH- MS, Parkinsons, Hx of stroke
 - Trauma – MVA/ TBI , ocular trauma
 - Hx of immunosuppression
- Ocular Hx
 - Hx of myopia
 - Hx of childhood strabismus /strabismus surgery
 - Ocular trauma-orbital wall/floor fracture
- PSH: /cataract or retinal/orbital surgery



Examination



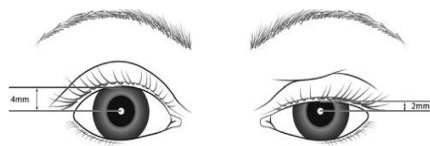
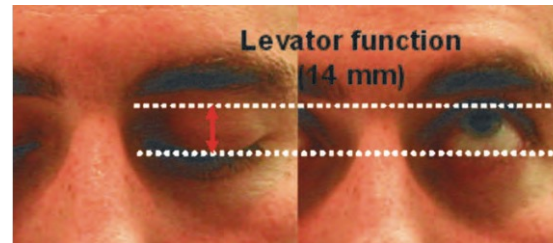
- Visual acuity/Pin hole
- Stereo vision
- Duction and version
- Saccades and smooth pursuit
- Cover uncover testing
- Maddox rod
- Prism measurements



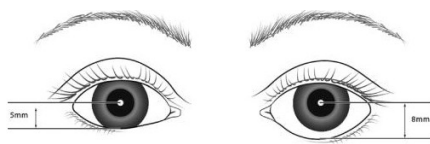
Examination – Eyelid /Globe



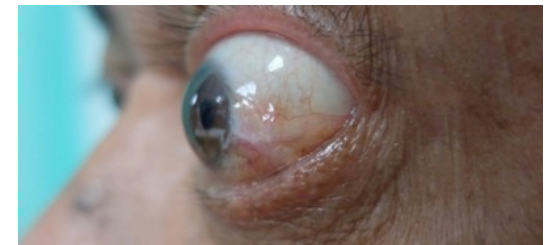
- External -Gaze preference , head tilt/turn , Conjunctival injection
- Eyelid: Retraction or ptosis
- Proptosis, enophthalmos



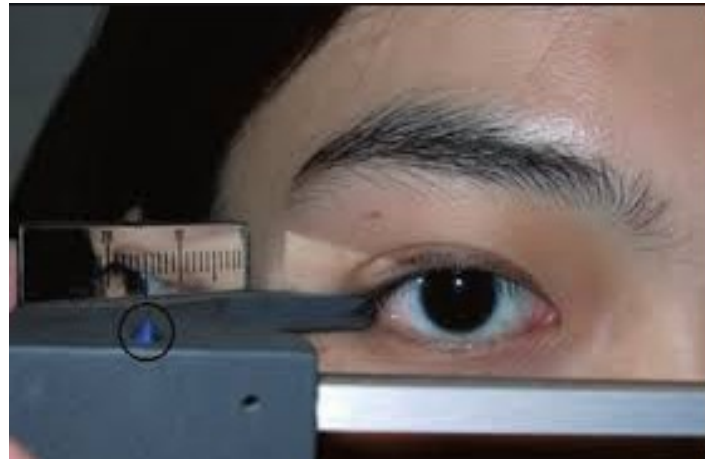
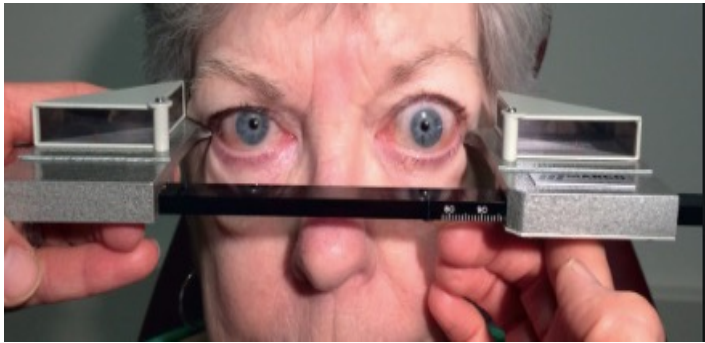
Marginal Reflex Distance 1



Marginal Reflex Distance 2



Examination – Proptosis



Examination- Maddox Rod test



Right gaze



What the patient sees



Straight



What the patient sees



Left gaze



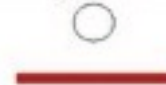
What the patient sees



Up gaze



What the patient sees



Straight



What the patient sees



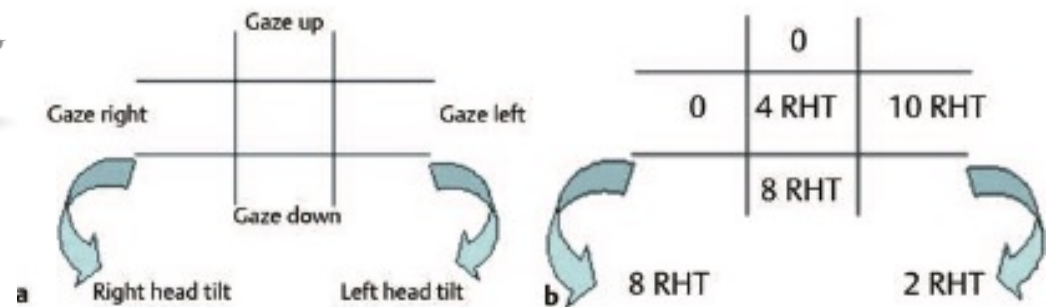
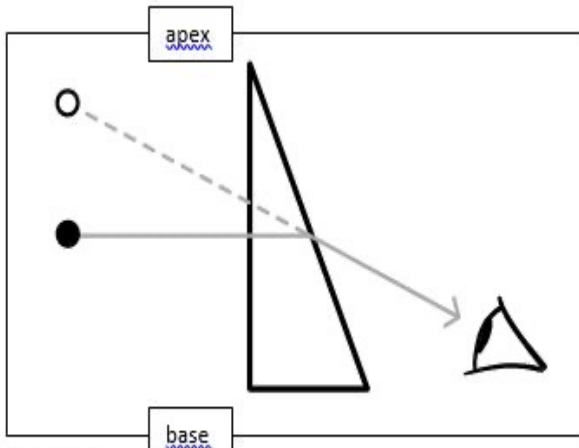
Down gaze



What the patient sees



Examination- Prism measurement



Final
conclusions and
plan based on
the clinical
findings in each
case..



"I AGREE, LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE . . .
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER THAT!"



CS47253



Etiology of Binocular Diplopia

- Convergence/accommodation
- Breakdown of ocular muscle imbalance
- Trauma
- Muscular: Strabismus, Thyroid, Myasthenia, Myositis
- Orbital: Cellulitis, sinusitis, intra-orbital tumor
- 3rd : DM, Vasculopathic, pituitary tumor, orbit pseudotumor, trauma
- 4th : congenital, DM, vascular, trauma
- 6th : DM, Vasculopathic,, herpes, tumor, IIH
- Supranuclear: INO, stroke, skew, migraine, Wernicke's
- Hemifield slip

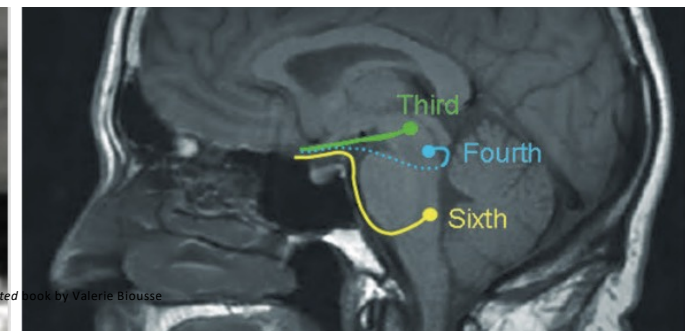
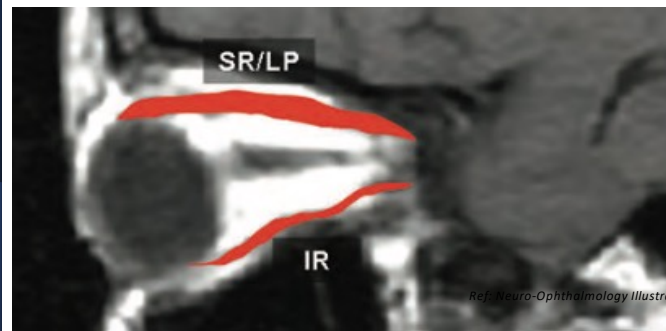
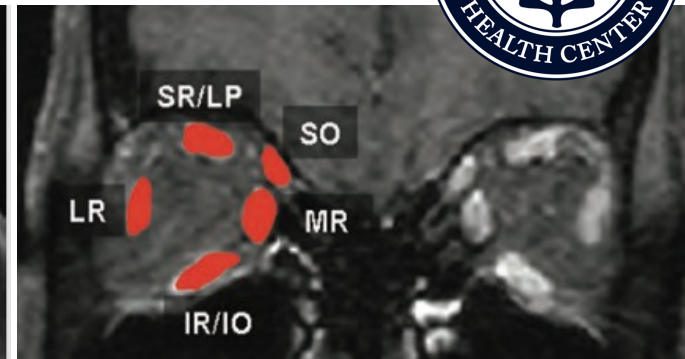
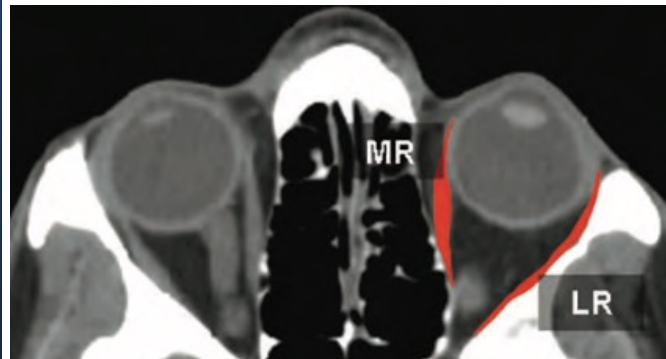


Every case
needs to be
tailored

- Family photos , old photos
- Old doctor's records
- Labs
- MRI Brain
- MRI orbit
- MRA if needed – PCOM aneurysm
- CT orbit – TED
- EMG – Single fiber



Extra-ocular muscles on CT/MRI



Ref: Neuro-Ophthalmology Illustrated book by Valerie Biousse

Clinical Cases

Basic cranial
nerve patterns



Clinical Cases



31-year-old Caucasian woman with a history of MS.

Initial diagnosis of MS was made 2 years before this presentation when she presented with bilateral upper extremity paresthesia, blurry vision, and diplopia secondary to a left sixth nerve palsy.



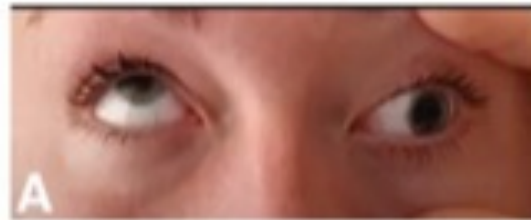
Clinical Cases

URGENT



Pattern: Ptosis , with eye down and out (XT +hypotropia)+/- Blown pupil

Third nerve Palsy



Work up

MRI Brain w contrast
CTA Head
Lumbar puncture
Labs



Localization: Left Third nerve



Diagnosis : Multiple sclerosis

Clinical Cases - Pearls



Isolated cranial nerve palsies are rare as initial presentations of MS and even rarer presentations of relapse.

Although the literature discussing cranial nerve palsies in MS is limited, MS has been found as a cause of isolated cranial nerve palsies in 1.7% in a few retrospective studies.

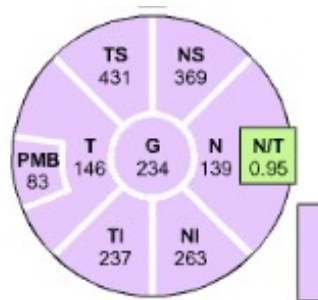
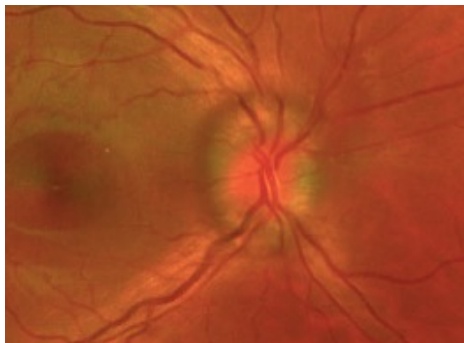
Third nerve palsies, if present, are more commonly present on initial presentation than relapse.



Clinical Cases – 6th nerve palsy



35 YOF with subacute positional headaches, tinnitus, and blurry vision



Right			Left		
-2	0	0	0	0	0
-2		0	0		0
-2	0	0	0	0	0



Pattern: Diplopia worse on right gaze w/ R LR restriction

Localization: R 6th Nerve Palsy

Diagnosis : Idiopathic intracranial Hypertension

Work up: MRI Brain w/ wo contrast, MRV, LP

Clinical Cases – 4th nerve palsy



20 YOF with vertical diplopia after a head trauma/MVA whiplash

Pattern: Vertical Diplopia- Left Hypertropia worse on right gaze , and left head tilt.

Localization: Left 4th nerve palsy- Midbrain/orbit?

Work up: MRI Brain w/wo contrast
Labs for diplopia- MG /TED – less likely

Diagnosis: Left Fourth Nerve Palsy





4th N Palsy vs Skew Deviation

Trochlear nerve palsy

Skew deviation

1. Hypertropia in primary position
2. Incomitant: hypertropia worse on gaze to opposite side acutely; may become comitant with time
3. Hypertropia worse on ipsilateral head tilt
4. Compensatory head tilt contralateral to the hypertropic eye
5. Excyclotorsion of the hypertropic eye
6. Usually no other neurologic signs (unless caused by brain trauma or lesions in brainstem)



1. Hypertropia in primary position
2. Incomitant, comitant, or alternating
3. Hypertropia may or may not change with head tilt
4. Pathologic head tilt contralateral to the hypertropic eye
5. Incyclotorsion of the hypertropic eye if present (and excyclotorsion of the hypotropic eye)
6. Usually has other neurologic signs (eg, gaze-evoked nystagmus, gaze palsy, dysarthria, ataxia, hemiplegia)



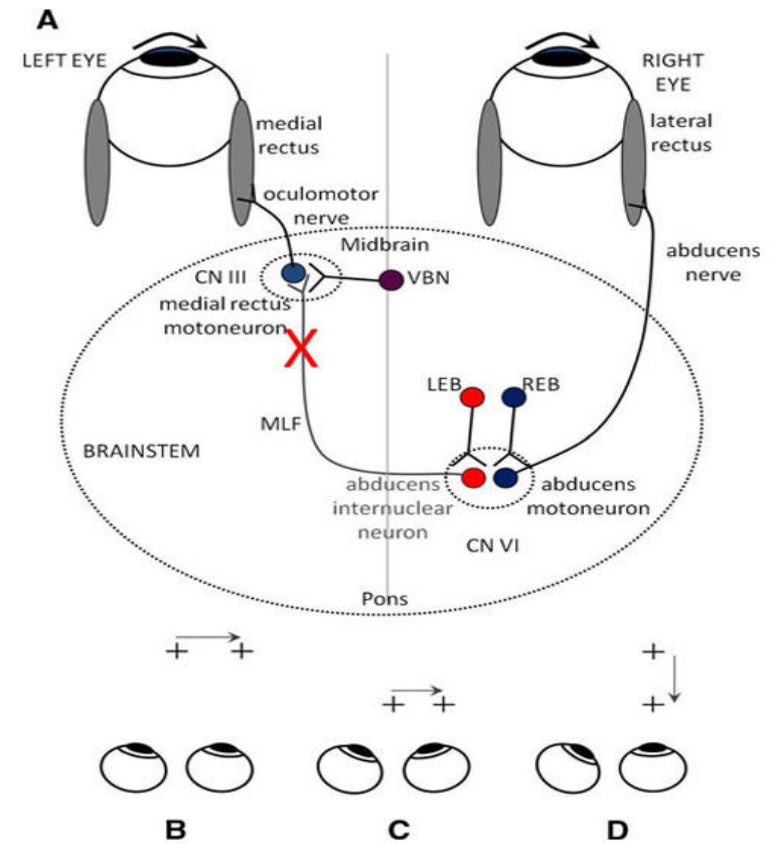
Skipping over the
cranial nerves ...



Clinical Cases



38 yo AAM with diplopia. Hx of MS



Clinical Cases



Pattern: Limited EOM of Left lateral rectus and right Medial rectus

Bilateral in this case

Diagnosis : Inter-nuclear ophthalmoplegia

INO is due to MLF disruption
– An **internuclear cause** of diplopia

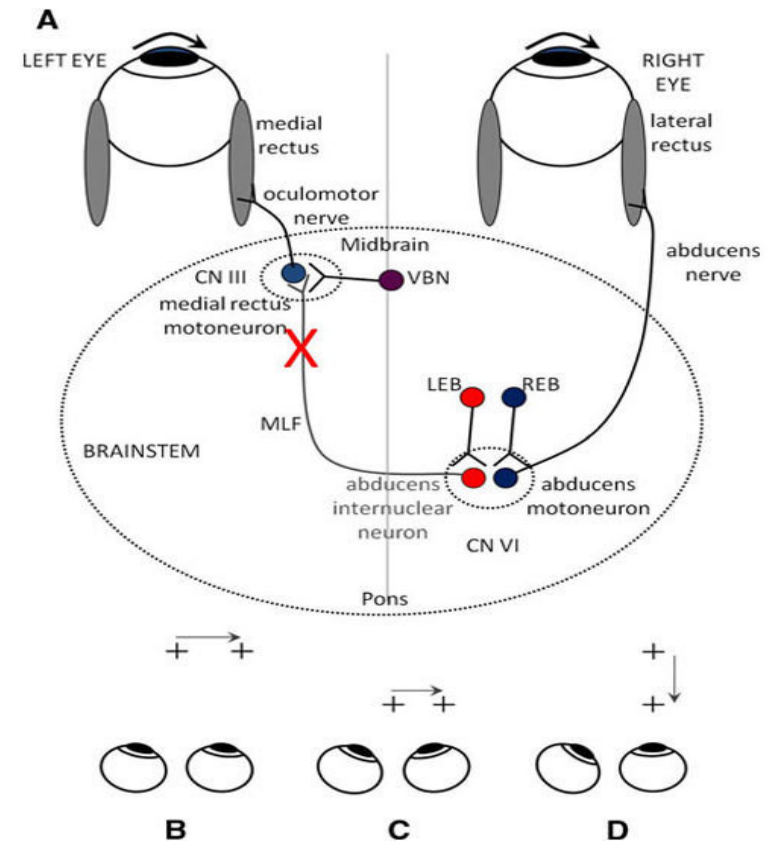
Localization : Midbrain - Medial Longitudinal Fasciculus

Work up

MRI Brain and orbit w/wo contrast

No repeat LP required here.

Final diagnosis: MS Relapse



Clinical Cases

-Other Supra nuclear reasons of diplopia



- Stroke
- Wernicke's
- Migraine
- Skew



Hypertropia
Not mapping to IVth NP

L. internuclear ophthalmoplegia



complete L. gaze palsy



L eye neither abducts nor adducts (1) + R eye does not adduct(1/2)

Diagnosis : One and half syndrome

Pattern- Gaze palsy +INO

Localization -Vith Nucleus or PPRF and MLF



Muscles disease



Clinical Cases



15 yoF with double vision and bilateral ptosis since 7 yrs of age at least. S/p two blepharoplasties OU , now with recurrence.

MG serology – negative.
Thyroid function normal.

EMG positive with multiple jitters.

Failed steroids and Mestinon



Clinical Cases



Clinical Cases – Old images



Age 4– LE ptosis early



5th/6th grade (age 10-11)-severe ptosis covering her left pupillary reflex and left eye esotropia



Age 7– left HT and mild XT



Age 11- LE ptosis, Left HT and Left XT



Clinical Cases – whole genome sequencing



m.10132_15439del in the mitochondrial genome (NC_012920.1)

- Heteroplasmic deletion including m.10132_15439 encompassing the following genes: *MT-ND3, MT-TR, MT-ND4L, MT-ND4, MT-TH, MT-TS2, MT-TL2, MT-ND5, MT-ND6, MT-TE, and MT-CYB of the mitochondrial genome was identified
- Has not been previously published as a pathogenic variant in association with a primary mitochondrial disorder or as a benign variant to our knowledge

We interpret this as a Pathogenic Variant.

Diagnosis: CPEO



Clinical Cases — Pearls



- Up to 60% cases of mitochondrial CPEO are due to mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) deletions (ranging from 1.3 to 1.9 kb).
- Other cases however are due to nuclear DNA (nDNA)-related defects of mtDNA maintenance (e.g., *POLG1*, *ANT*, *C10orf2/twinkle* or *POLG2*).
- Sporadic cases of CPEO suggest de novo mutations in mtDNA while autosomal dominant or recessive inheritance patterns point to nDNA mutations. ^L

Treatment

- ❖ No definitive cure for CPEO
- ❖ Control of symptoms
- ❖ Prism lenses for diplopia
- ❖ Surgical correction for strabismus (may reoccur)
- ❖ Surgical ptosis correction-
 - Good levator -advancement or resection of LPS
 - Poor levator function - eyelid suspension to the frontalis muscle with autogenous or synthetic sling material

Other neuro-muscular junction disorder



	Myasthenia	Lambert Eaton	Botulism
Defect	Ach R (post synaptic)	Ca ++ channel (pre synaptic)	Ach release (pre-synaptic)
Lids	ptosis	ptosis	ptosis
EOMS	ophthalmoplegia	Not prominent	ophthalmoplegia
Pupil	spared	spared	Poorly reactive
Strength	decrements	increments	
Other symptoms		autonomic	constipation
Associations		paraneoplastic	

A detailed illustration of a complex network of blood vessels, likely representing the vascular system. The vessels are depicted in various shades of red and orange, with some appearing as thick, prominent arteries and others as a dense web of smaller capillaries. The background is a deep, dark blue, which makes the glowing vessels stand out. The overall composition is abstract and focuses on the intricate branching and connecting nature of the vascular system.

Vascular causes

Clinical Cases



29 yo RH, AAF with new onset diplopia on extreme lateral gazes.

Facial sensation was intact to light touch but had documented Left side facial droop during her hospital stay.

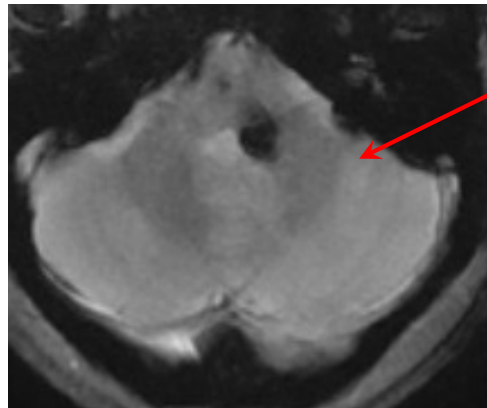
Pattern: Left MR Palsy +
Right abduction nystagmus +
Left 6 LR palsy

Localization: Left 6th nerve
+MLF? + left Facial nerve
= Pons /Midbrain

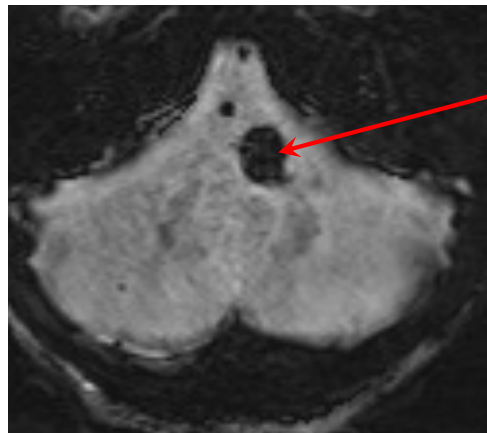
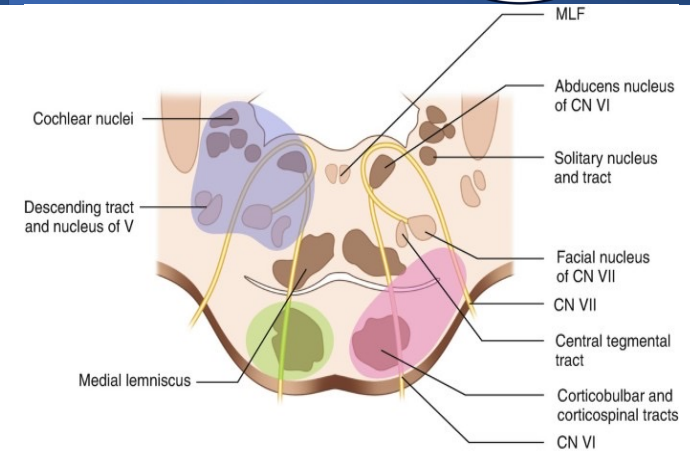


Diagnosis: Pontine Cavernoma

Clinical Cases - Comparison of MRI - GRE sequence -2018 to 2020

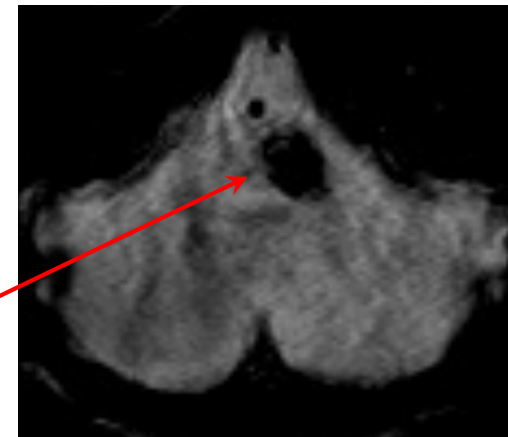


7/2018: Small left dorsal pontine cavernoma and adjacent hemorrhage (possibly obscuring another cavernoma) with mild surrounding edema in the medial aspect of the left middle cerebellar peduncle



2/25/2020: Susceptibility artifact is larger now but still on the left side.

9/23/20: Susceptibility artifact is now MUCH larger. It now crosses the midline and extends much closer to the ventral pons



Clinical Cases -Pearls



- A cavernoma is a cluster of abnormal blood vessels, usually found in the brain and spinal cord.
- Also known as cavernous angiomas, cavernous haemangiomas, or cerebral cavernous malformation (CCM).
- They may leak blood and lead to hemorrhage in the brain or spinal cord or mass effect causing a variety of neurologic symptoms
- The purpose of cavernoma removal is to release pressure to the brainstem and prevent rebleeding
- **Radical resection of the cavernoma** while preserving the surrounding normal brainstem during the subacute phase from the first or second rebleeding is the best surgical strategy in elderly patients
- For elderly patients, **stereo tactic radiosurgery** might be a suitable alternative treatment.

Symptomatic Brainstem Cavernoma of Elderly Patients: Timing and Strategy of Surgical Treatment. Two Case Reports and Review of the Literature .Tetsuya Negoto¹, Shota Terachi¹, Yuko Baba¹, Shin Yamashita², Terukazu Kuramoto², Motohiro Morioka¹

Clinical Cases



71-year-old woman with progressive diplopia and left sided ptosis

Exam: **Complete left ptosis, blown pupil, with partial left sided third and fourth nerve palsies**

MRA brain- no aneurysm

Diagnosed as Ocular myasthenia

Serology negative
acetylcholinesterase antibody

No EMG records

Mestinon trial

Excision of a thymoma

Symptoms slowly resolved

But 5 months later ..



New left eye proptosis, chemosis of left eye inferiorly with corkscrewing of conjunctival blood vessels and a positive ocular bruit

Clinical Cases



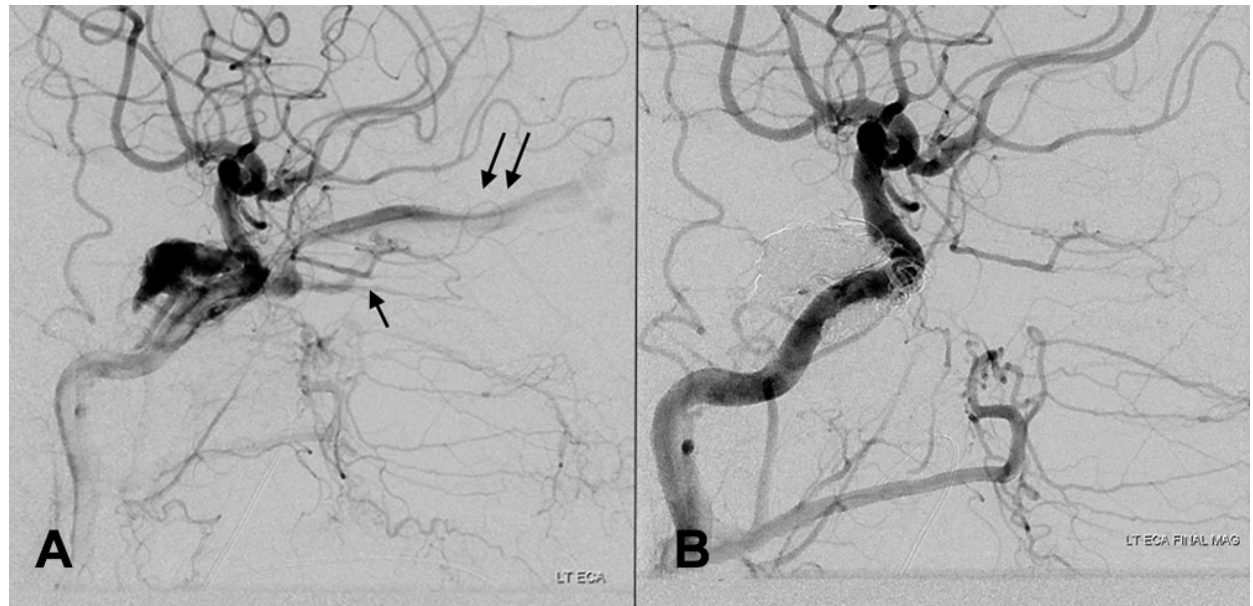
URGENT Neuro IR referral

Pattern: Proptosis,
chemosis, Bruits, any
cranial neuropathy

Work up

- MRI Brain
- CTA Head
- Diagnostic Angiogram

Diagnosis :
Indirect CCF
fistula



Clinical Cases



Injected eye w/ ophthalmoplegia

Things to rule out

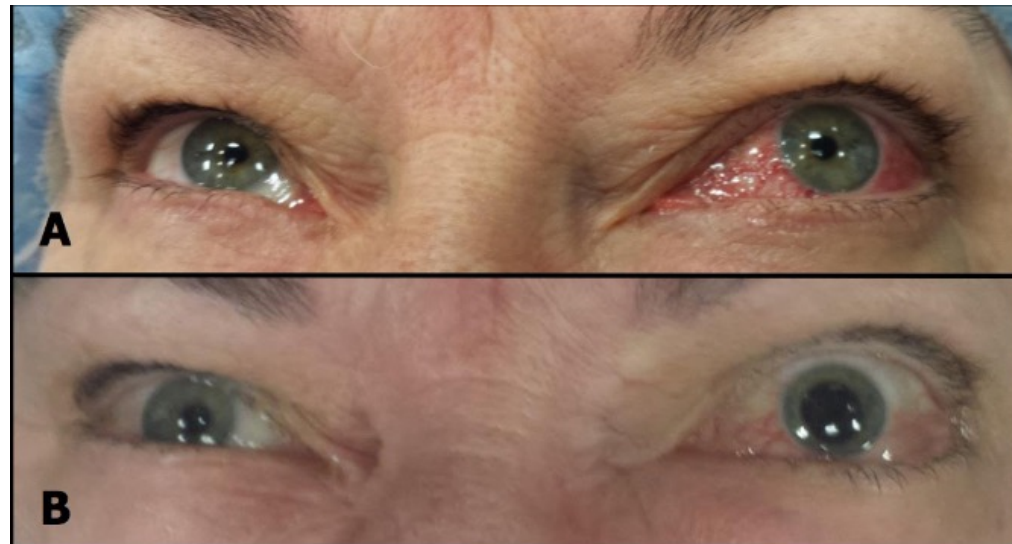
Thyroid eye disease

Idiopathic orbital inflammation
spectrum

Carotid cavernous fistula

Cavernous sinus thrombosis

Orbital mass



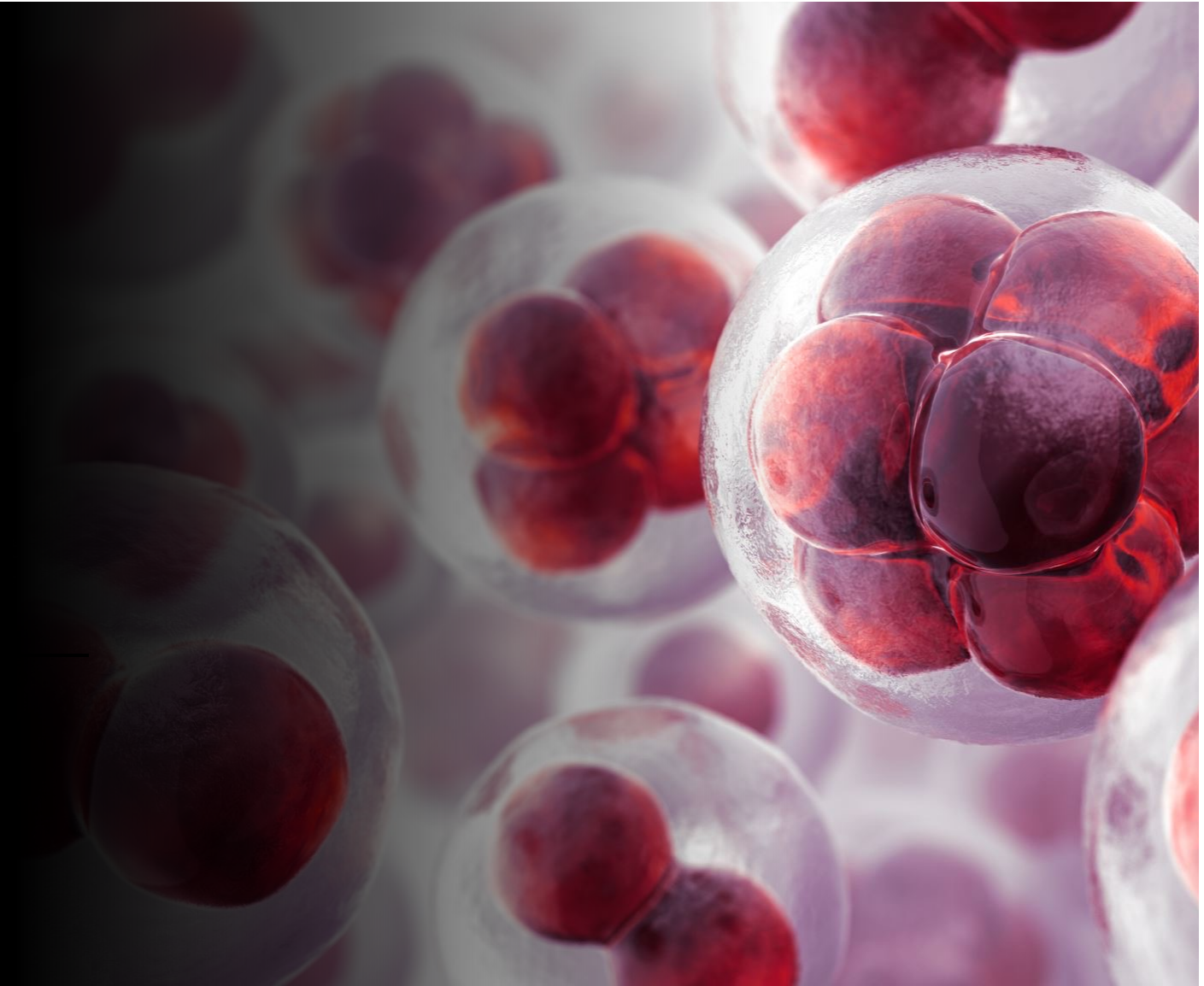
Clinical Cases – Red Flags suggesting CC Fistula



- Classic triad: Proptosis, chemosis, and pulsatile tinnitus
- Indirect, low flow fistulas more challenging to diagnosis
- Look for arterialization of conjunctival vessels
- Look for bruits
- Non-invasive vascular imaging not sensitive.



Other orbital causes



Clinical Cases



41 YOM with diplopia

	-- -- --		-- -- --	
LET 30	-- ○ --	LET 20	-- ○ --	LET 30
	-- -- --		-- -- --	

Pattern: (2021)

Restricted EOM – Bilateral 6 nerve deficits L> R
 Exophthalmos, dry eyes , conjunctival chemosis, Lid retraction

Localization: Orbit

Right			Left		
-1	0	0	0	0	-1
-1		0		0	-1
-1	0	0	.5	0	-.5



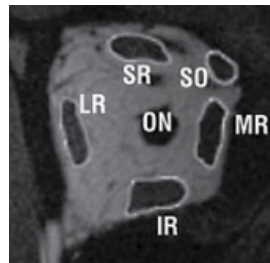
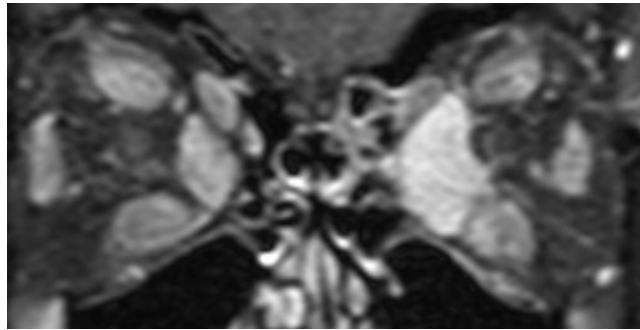
Work Up :

Ocular prism measurement, Thyroid labs
 MRI Brain/Orbit w/ wo contrast , CT orbit w/ wo contrast

Clinical Cases



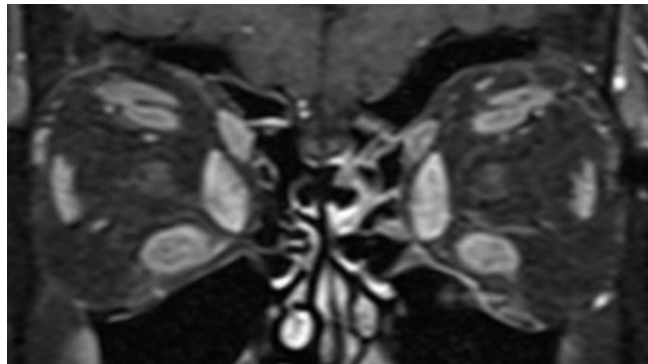
MRI 2021 Before Tepezza infusion



2022 After Tepezza infusion



MRI Orbit 2022 after Tepezza infusion



Diagnosis: Thyroid Eye disease

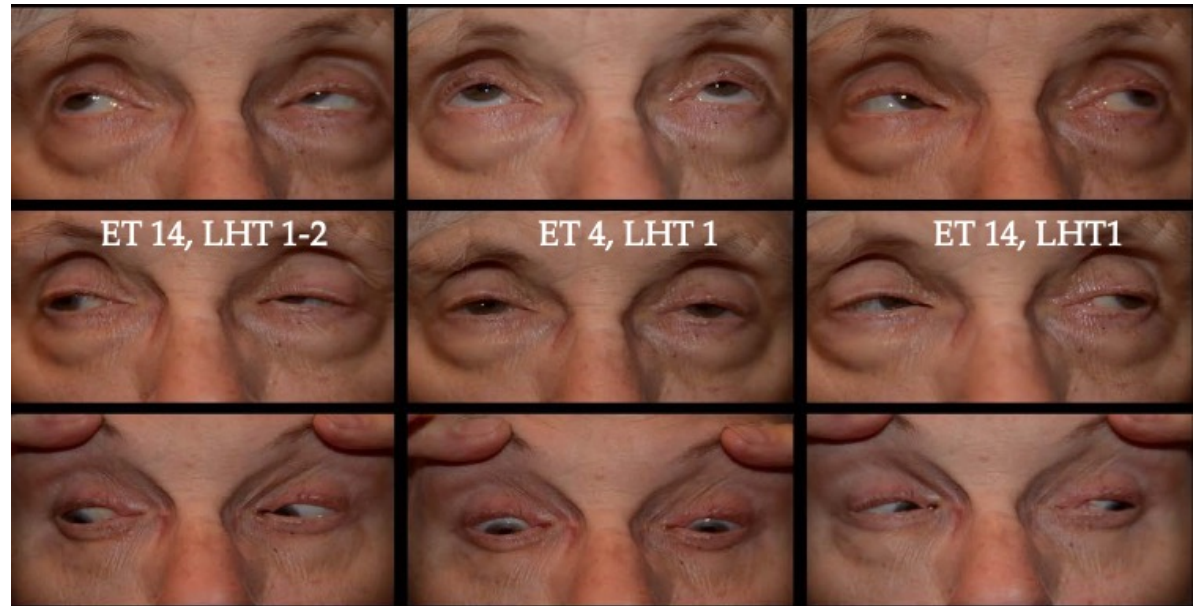
2023 residual esotropia

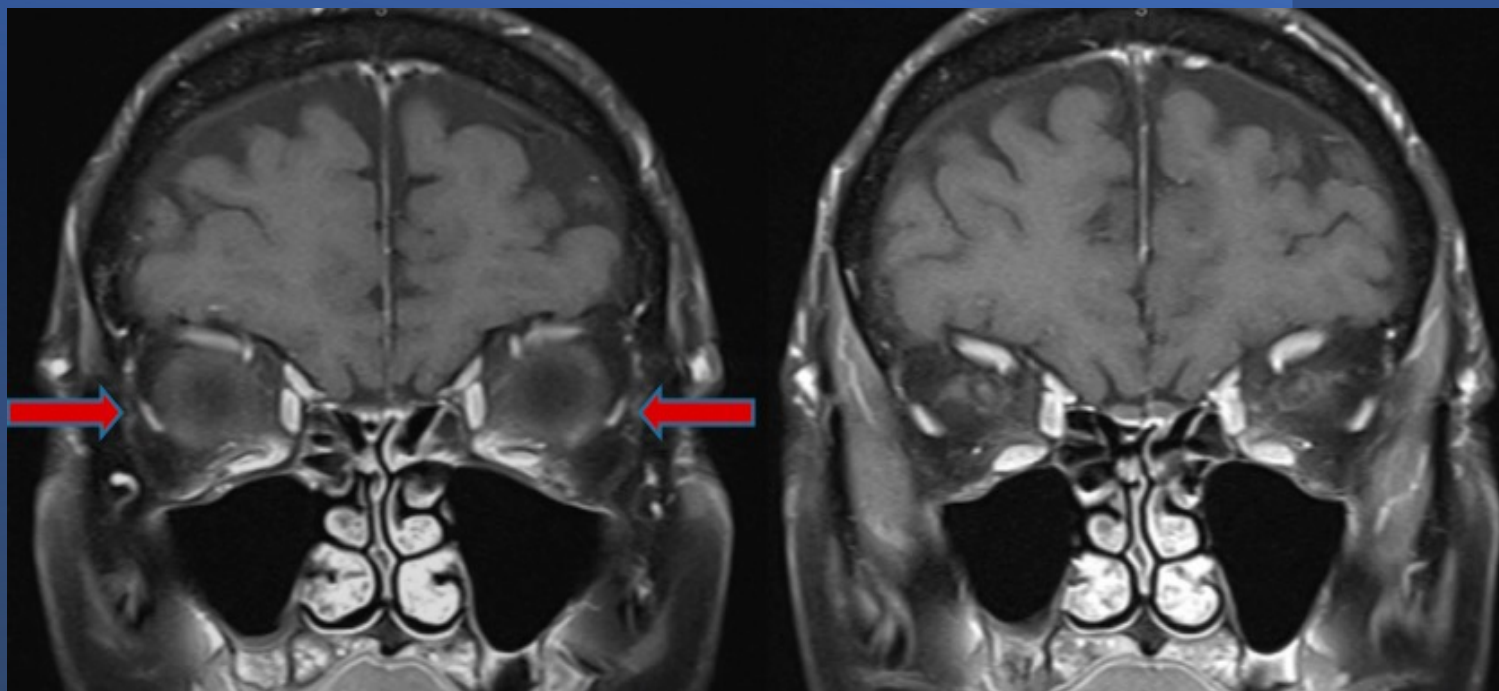


Clinical Cases



- 77 yo Female
- Intermittent binocular horizontal diplopia for 6 months
 - Only present at distance
 - Increases in latera gaze
- PMH: Osteroporosis



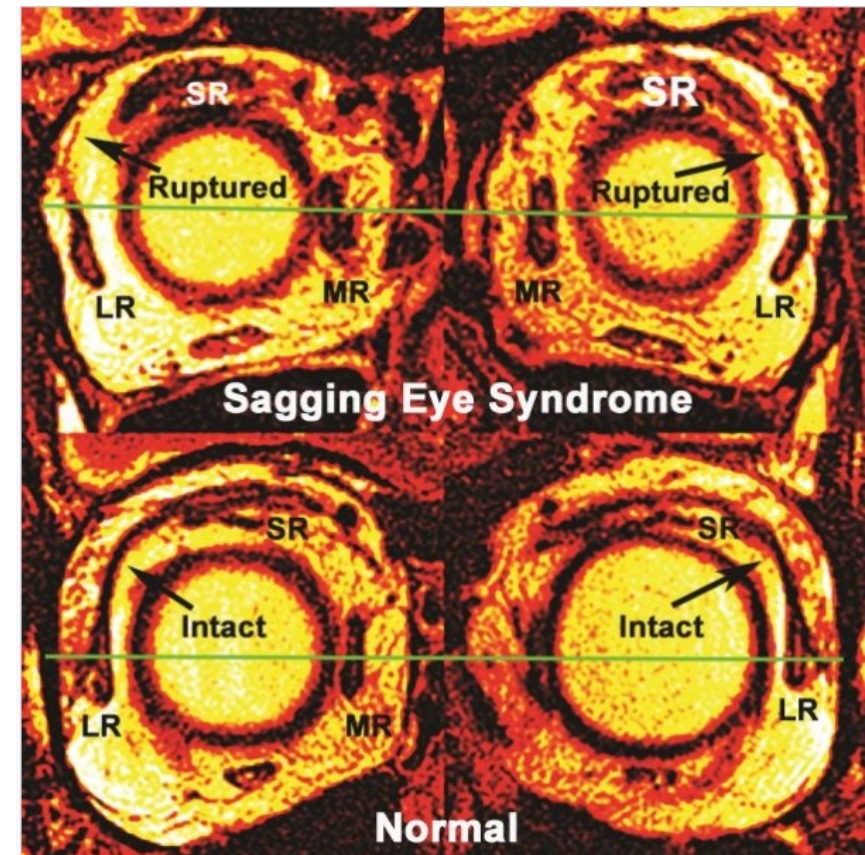
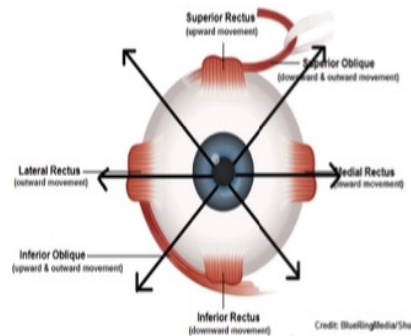


Inferior displacement of the lateral rectus muscles consistent with
Sagging Eye Syndrome

Clinical Cases – Sagging eye syndrome

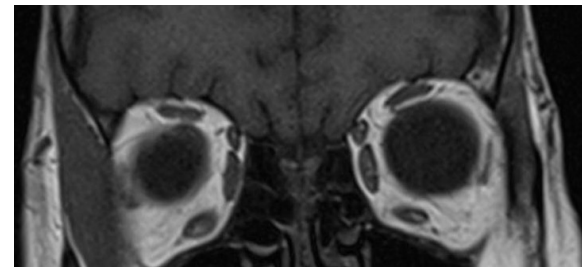
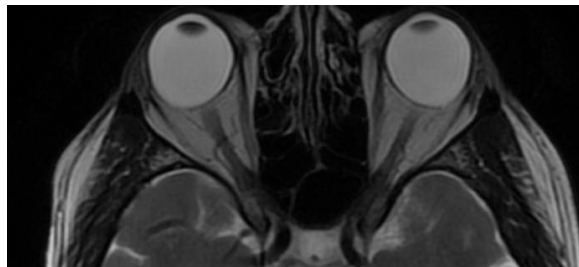


- Age related changes in EOM and orbital connective tissue
- Laxity or rupture of the SR+LR connective tissue bands results in inferior displacement of lateral rectus pulley complexes
- Associated involuntional ptosis , deep superior sulci
- Explains conditions in elderly divergence insufficiency and broken down phoria.



Age

Clinical Cases – Heavy eye syndrome



HES is the result of LR and SR shifts caused by the elongated posterior portion of the eyeball due to high myopia.

Nasal shift of SR causes reduced supraduction and increased adduction.

Consequently, HES shows esodeviation and hypo-deviation due to increased adduction, reduced abduction, reduced supraduction with an increased infra-duction

Heavy eye syndrome vs Sagging eye syndrome



	Heavy eye syndrome	Sagging Eye syndrome
Presentation	Progressive esotropia and hypotropia with limitation of abduction and elevation	Esotropia worse at distance, associated with limited supraduction but full abduction , along with degenerative changes such as bilateral blepharoptosis, and deepening of the lid sulci
Etiology	LR and SR shifts caused by the elongated posterior portion of the eyeball due to high myopia	Degeneration of the lateral rectus-superior rectus (LR-SR) band due to aging
MRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inferior lateral rectus displacement and medial superior rectus displacement • Degeneration of the LR- SR band • Severe supero-temporal prolapse of myopic globe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inferior displacement of the lateral rectus • Degeneration of the LR- SR band • No appreciable globe prolapse

Clinical Case



- 58 yo M with PMH of HTN, HLD , hypothyroidism, with diplopia.
- Exam: Partial right third nerve palsy w/o pupillary involvement
- Right eye upper lid swelling in the lacrimal area.

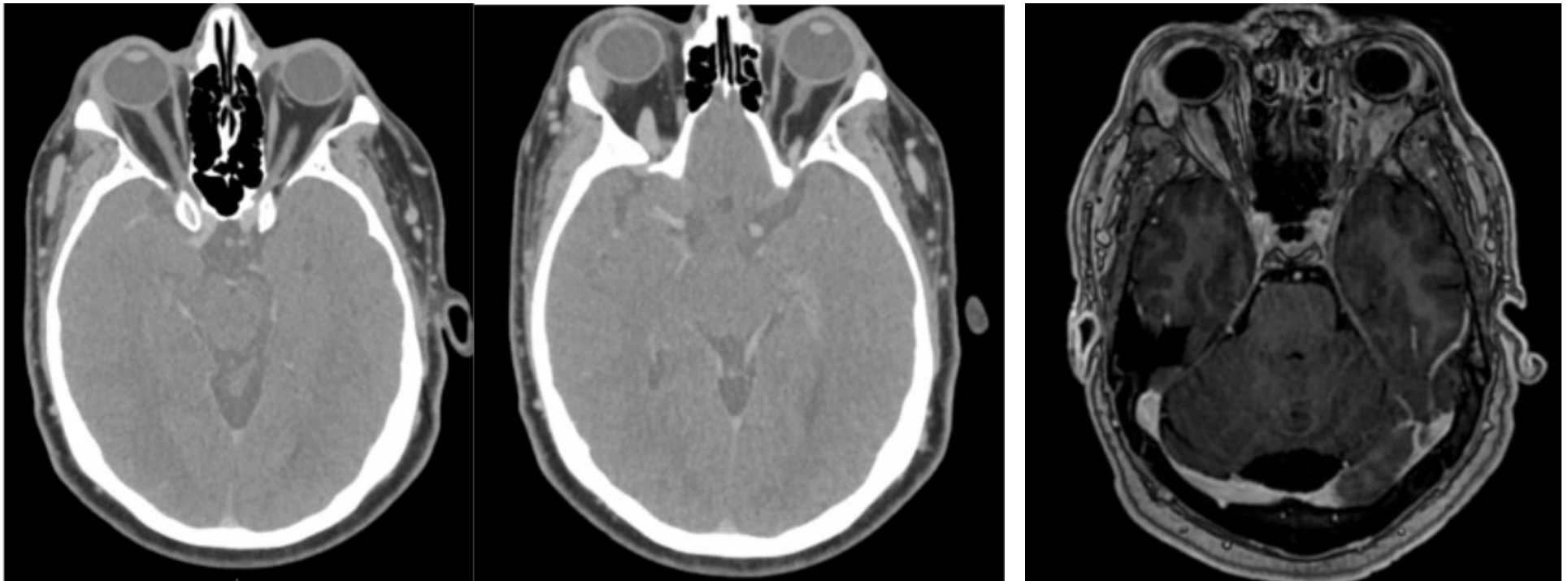


	-1	-1	-1	LHT 8	0	0	0	
Ortho	0	○	0	Ortho	0	○	0	Ortho
	0	0	0	Ortho	0	0	0	

Clinical Case



Clinical Case



MRI Orbit: Nonspecific enlargement and hyperenhancement of the right lacrimal gland.

Clinical Case



Biopsy of lacrimal gland: Benign glandular tissue with chronic inflammation.

Negative for lymphoma, Ig G4

CT Chest : No evidence of sarcoid

CTV- No cavernous sinus thrombosis but has nonspecific prominence of the superior ophthalmic veins bilaterally

Treated with high dose prednisone.



Other Etiologies

A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells (erythrocytes) against a dark background. The cells are biconcave discs, appearing as reddish-orange spheres with a central indentation. Some cells are in sharp focus, while others are blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The lighting highlights the texture and color of the cells.

Clinical Case



78 y.o. Caucasian, male with a PMH of HTN, DM II diagnosed a week back presenting with horizontal binocular diplopia.
 Exam: left 6th nerve palsy, VA 20/20 OU , normal VF and optic nerves
 Other complaints: Headaches + , generalized fatigue with jaw claudication, weight loss .
 CRP 176.7
 ESR: 72
 TFT normal



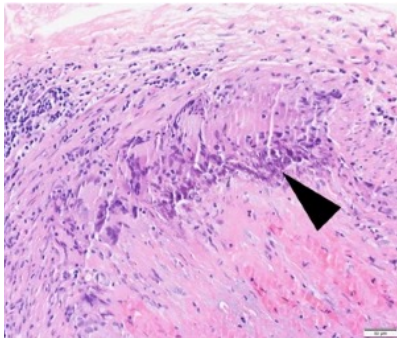
	0	0	0	LET 2	0	0	-1	
Ortho	0	○	0	LET 2	0	○	-1	LET 4
	0	0	0	LET 2	0	0	-1	



Clinical Case

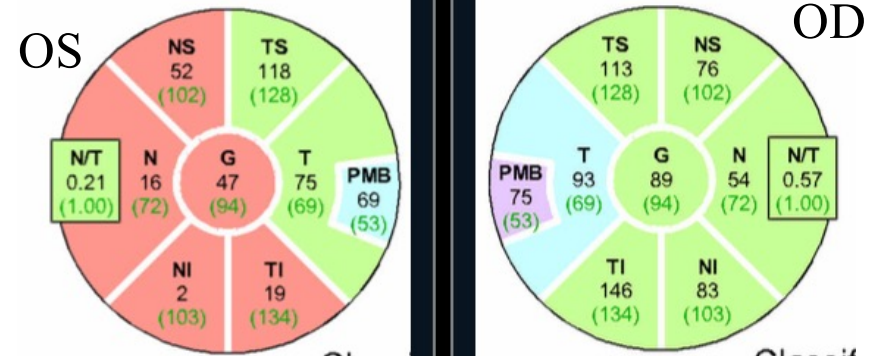
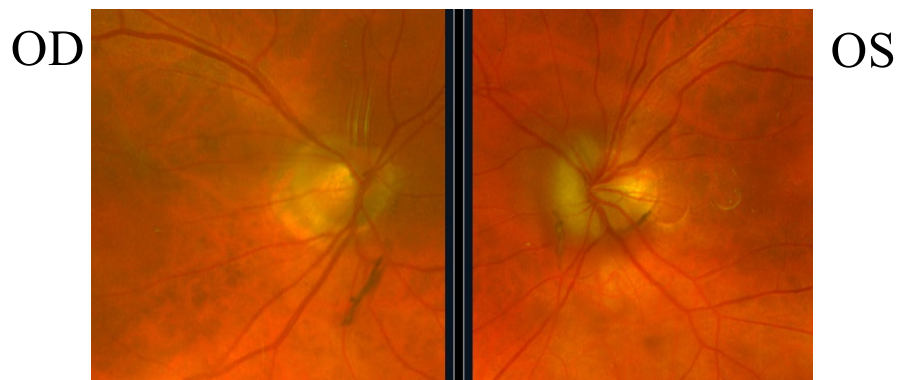
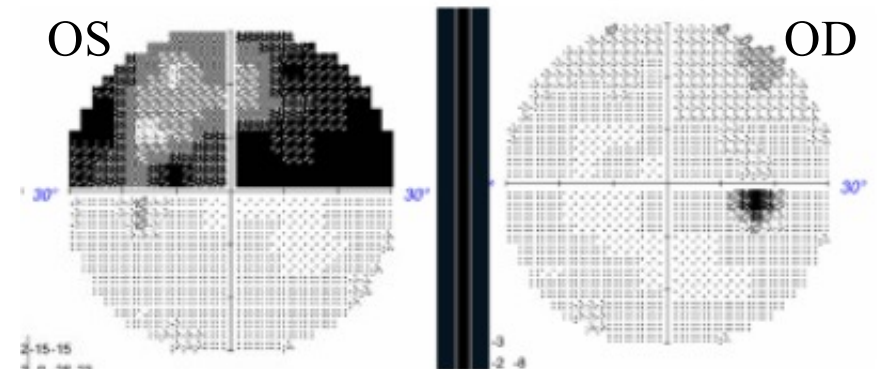


Temporal artery Biopsy a week later was positive.



**Diagnosis:
Giant cell
arteritis**

Humphrey Visual field testing & OCT



Clinical case



60 yo F with hx of breast cancer with diplopia



Localization: Left Third nerve



Pattern: Ptosis , with eye down and out (XT +hypotropia)+/- Blown pupil

Third nerve Palsy



Work up

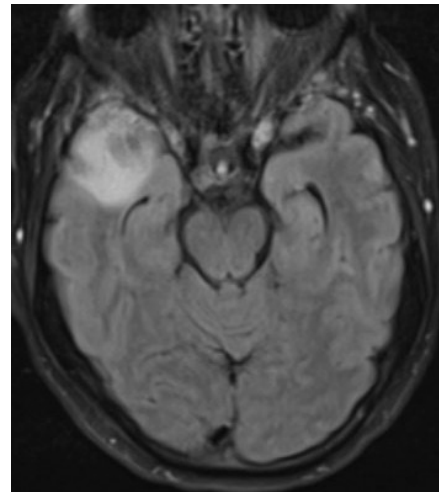
MRI Brain w contrast
CTA Head

Clinical case



- MRI Brain – Metastasis to the brain No midbrain involvement
- CTA –no PCOM aneurysm
- MG/TED work up neg
- Repeat MRI shows left third nerve enhancement

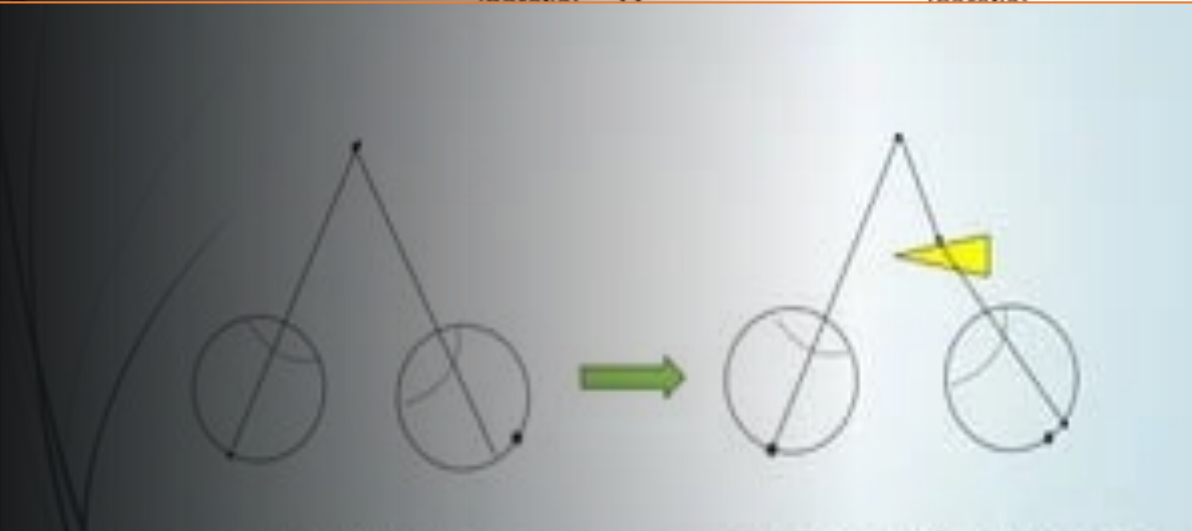
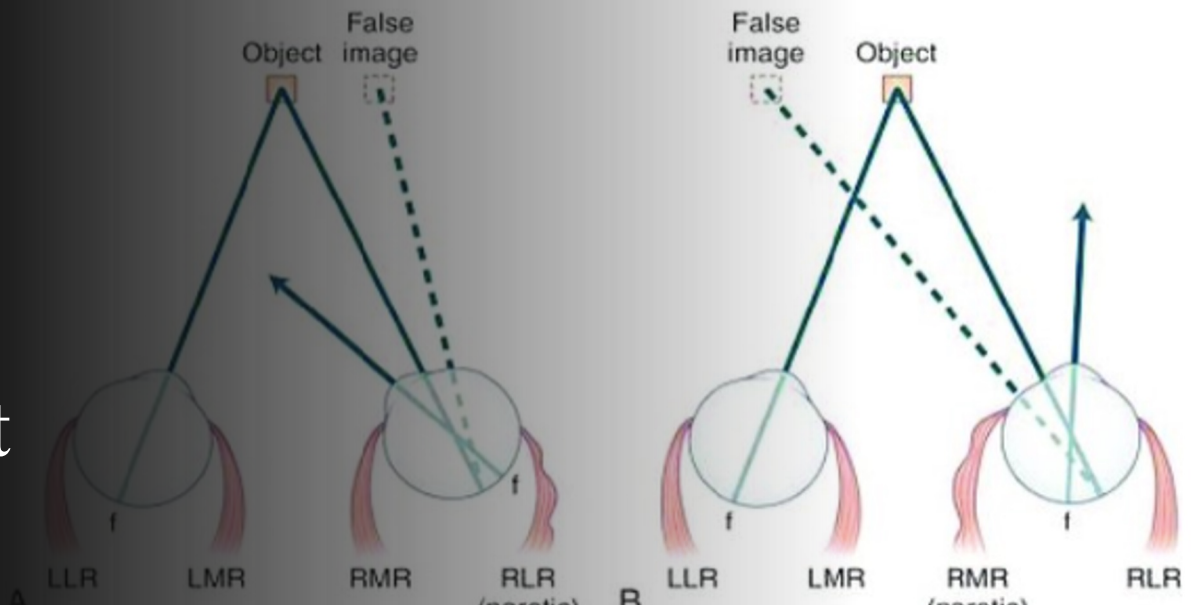
**Diagnosis : Brain Metastasis
w/ Left 3rd n involvement**



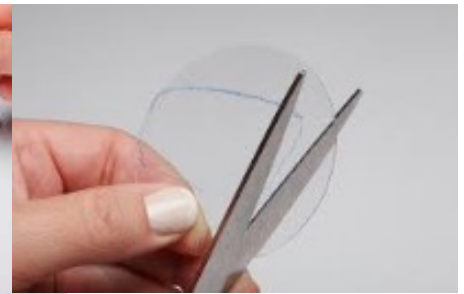
Management of diplopia



Prisms – The Light Benders

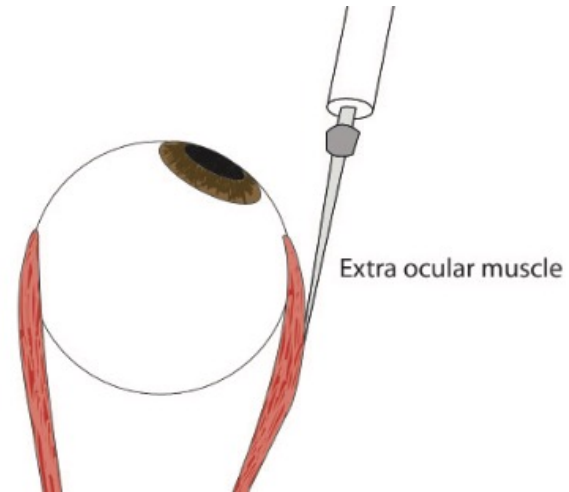


Management- Prism glasses– Fresnel & Grounded prisms



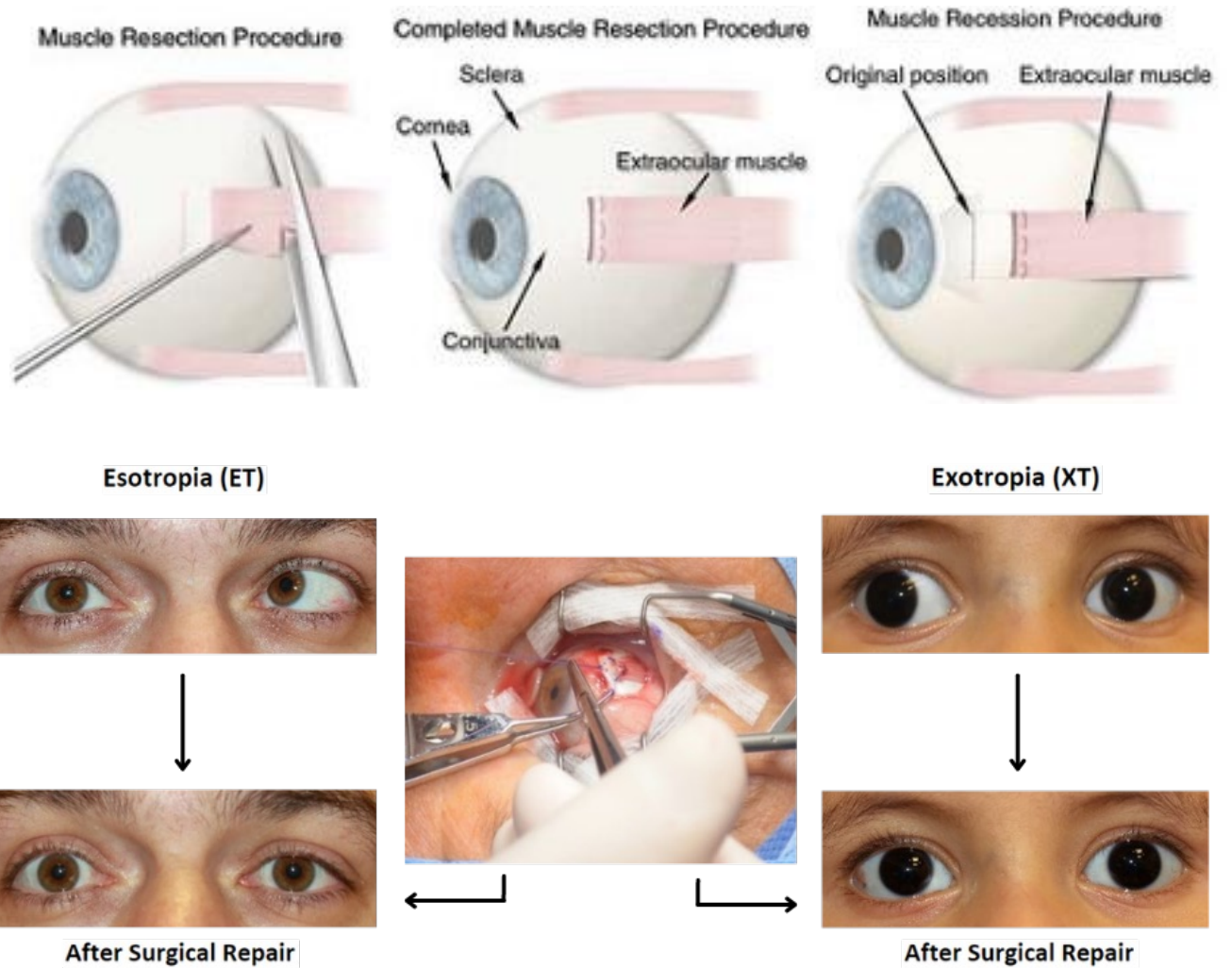
Management

Botox injection in the eye muscle



Management

Surgery



Summary



- Good history and examination holds clues to the diagnosis
- External appearance often holds clues to the diagnosis
- Pattern recognition and localization is key to solving the problem
- Beware of chronic red eye
- Learn to recognize cases that need urgent work up
- All cases need to be tailored for work up
- Treatment needs to be tailored as well

Thank you

