



Attention: Physiology, Pathophysiology and Neurotechnology (NX-423)

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Neglect



Anton Räderscheidt

Syndrome of visuospatial deficits

Disorder of attention

patients characteristically fail
to orientate, to report, to respond to
stimuli located on the contralesional side

Mainly unilateral right hemispheric lesion in the attentional network



Anton Räderscheidt

Spatial deficits

- A bias in the gradient of spatial attention towards the ipsilesional side of space
- Difficulty disengaging attention from ipsilesional (R) and shifting it to contralesional (L) locations
- A pathological spatial bias (contralesional items lose in competition for attention to ipsilesional)
- Directional motor deficits in which patients have difficulty directing movements into the contralesional side of space
- Problems with spatial working memory, i.e. keeping track of spatial locations over time
- A disordered egocentric representation of space



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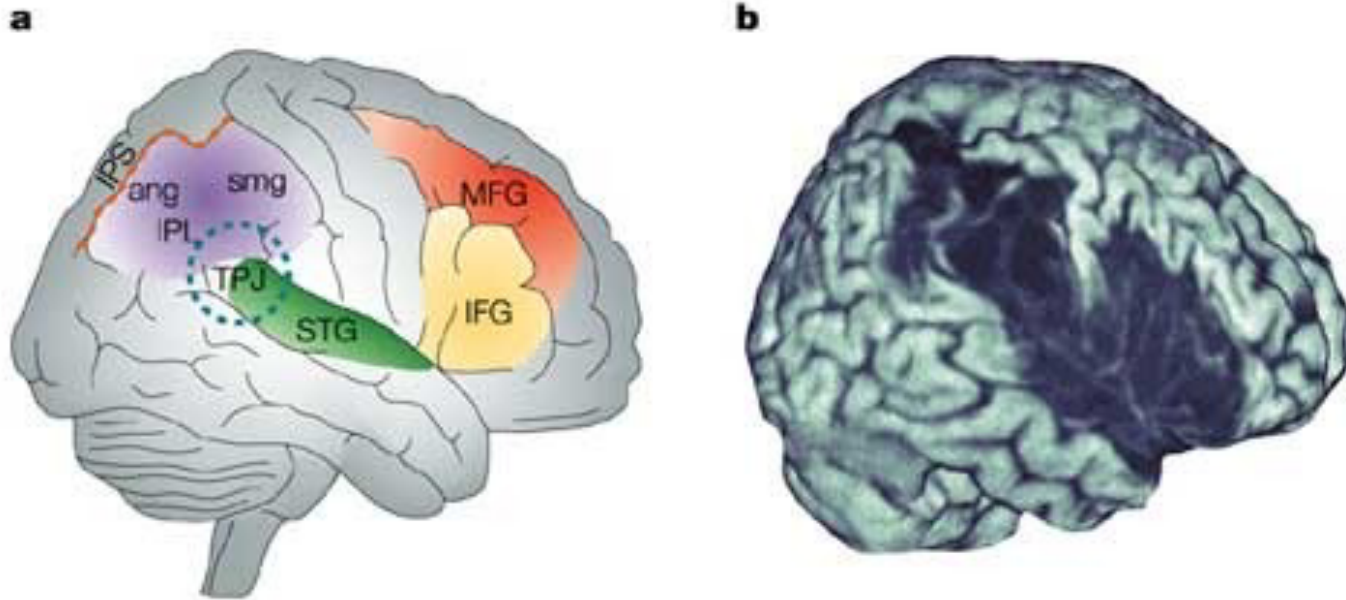
Non-spatial deficits

- Difficulties in sustaining attention over time
- Impairments in selective attention, which may occur in both left and right sides of space and at central locations.
- Neglect patients can demonstrate bilateral attentional impairments, even though the most obvious abnormality is a bias towards ipsilesional (usually right-sided) space



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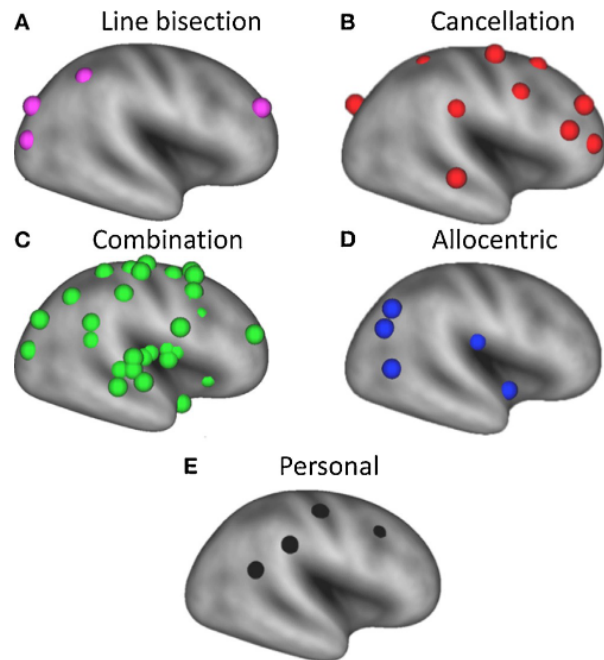
Right hemispheric lesions in the attentional network leading to neglect



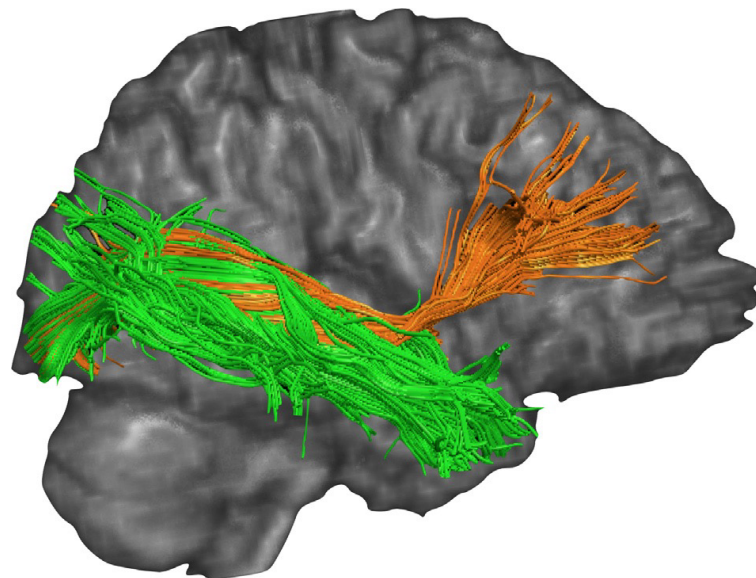
Temporo-parietal Junction (TPJ)
Inferior parietal lobe (IPL) including angular (ang) and supramarginal gyrus (smg)
Intraparietal sulcus (ips)
Superior temporal gyrus (STG)
Inferior frontal gyrus (IFG)
Middle frontal gyrus (MFG).

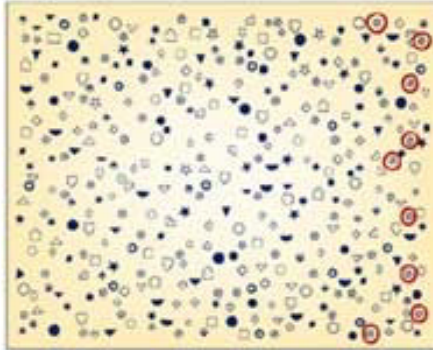
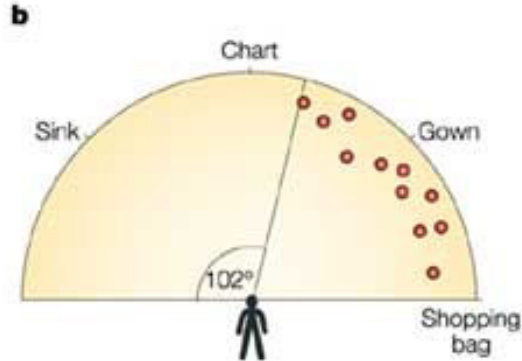
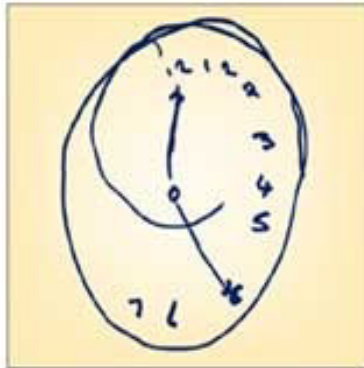
Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

Lesion sites associated with neglect symptoms

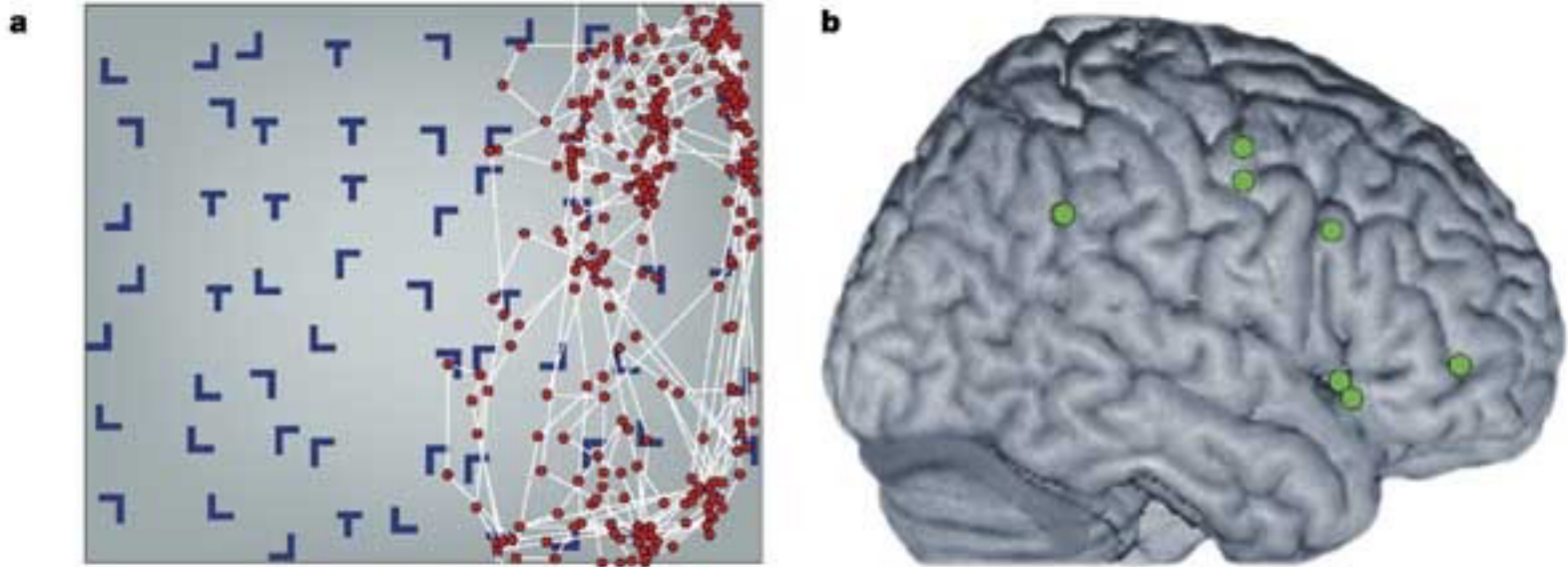


White matter tracts associated to neglect



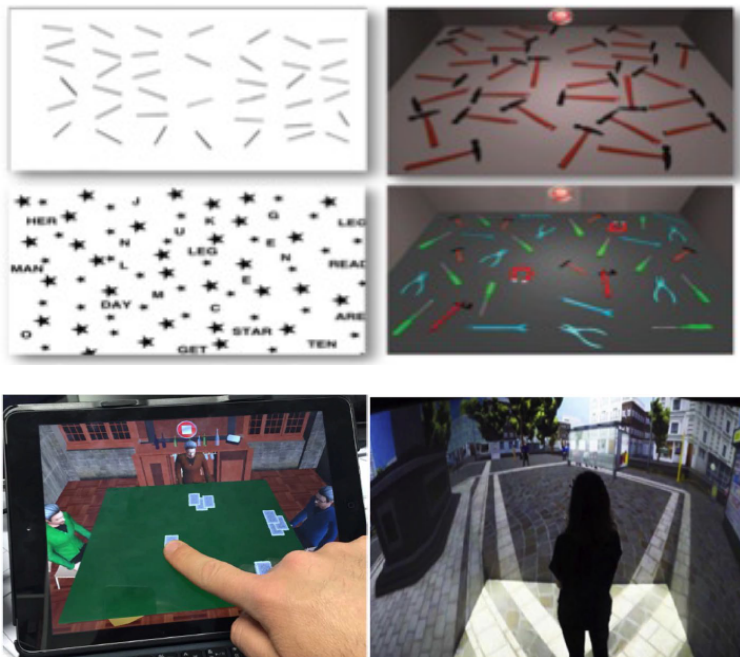
a Cancellation test**b** Naming objects around a room**c** Clock drawing**d** Milan Square

Visual exploration

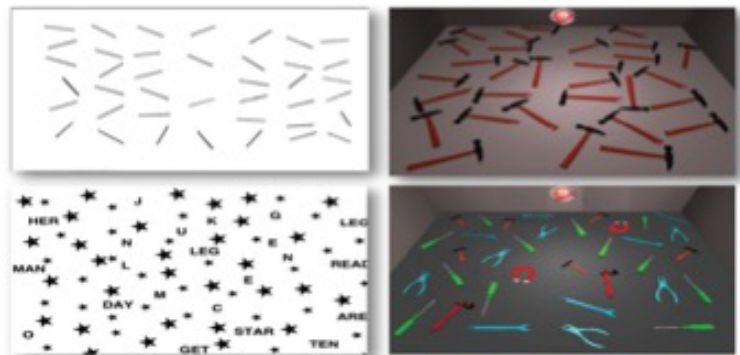


Neurotechnology

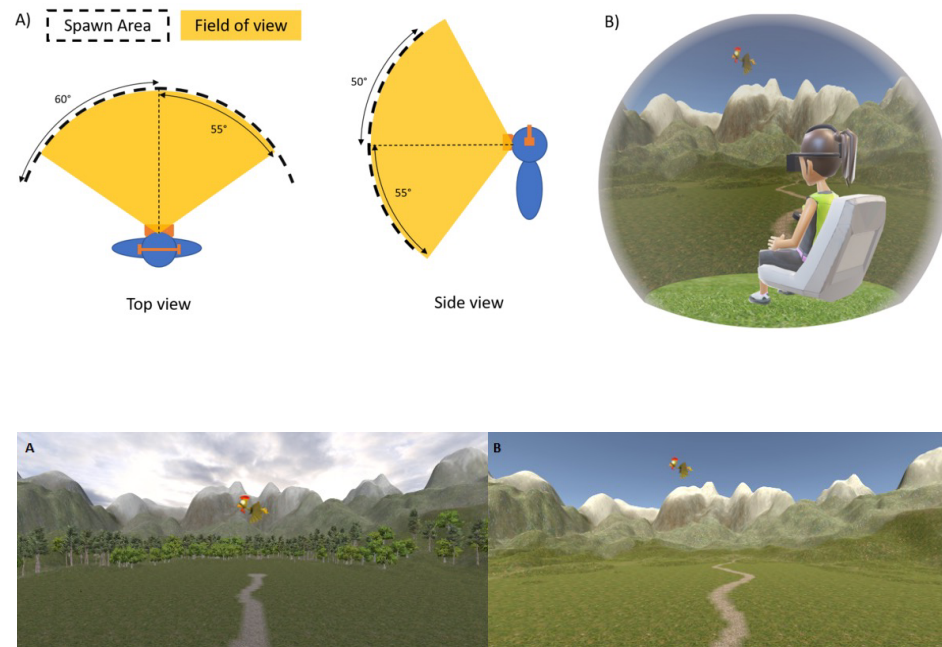
Paper-Pencil to computerized



Paper-Pencil to computerized



Task Using Immersive Virtual Reality



Sensory Stimulation

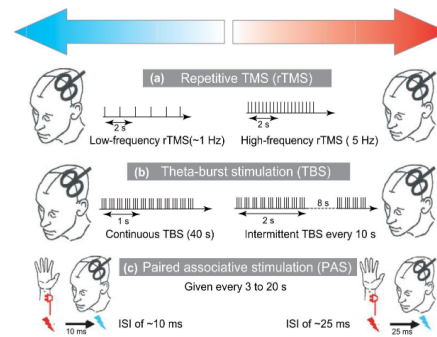
Eye Movement–Based Therapies
Auditory Spatial Cueing (VR)
Robot-Assisted Therapy and Sensory Feedback
Mirror and Prism Therapies



Rossetti et al. 2015

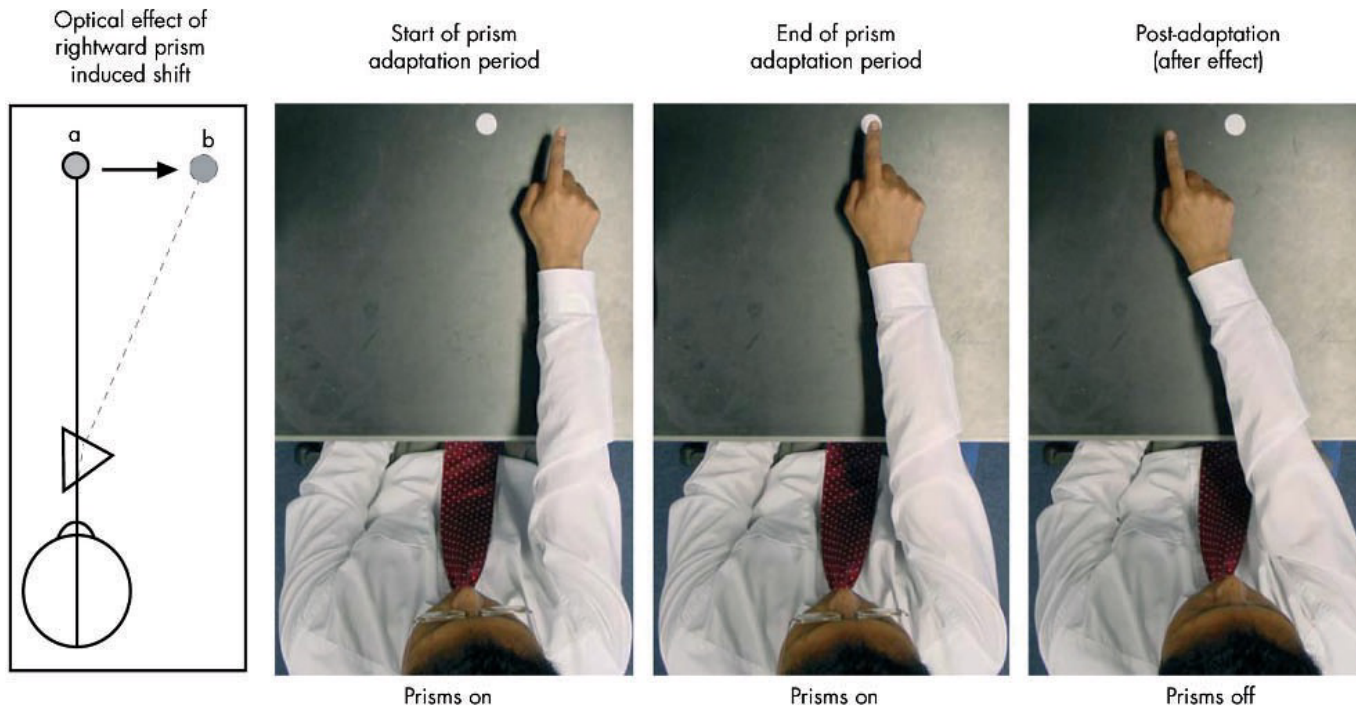
Non-invasive Brain Stimulation

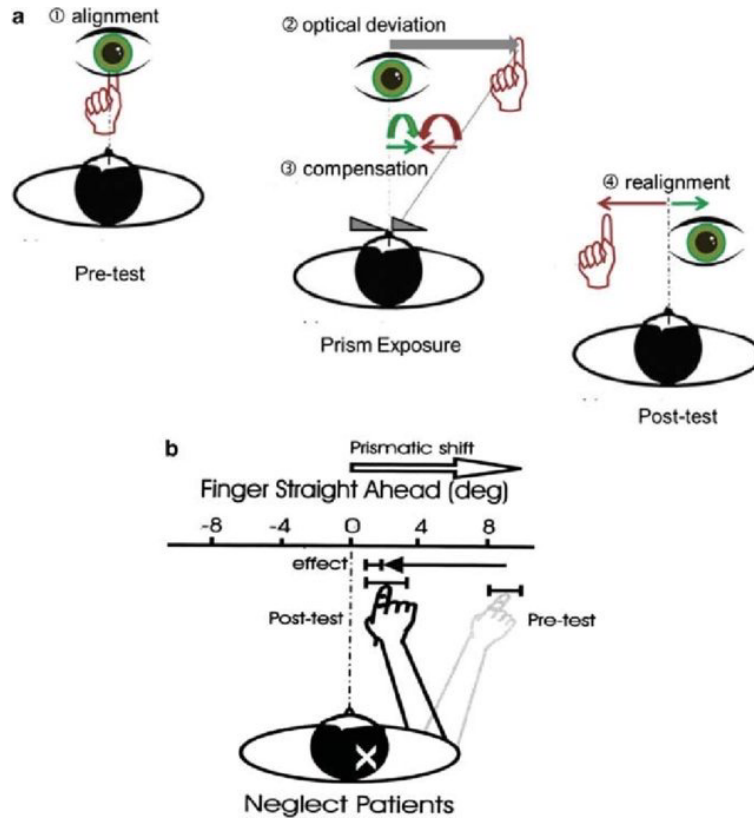
rTMS
tDCS
tACS

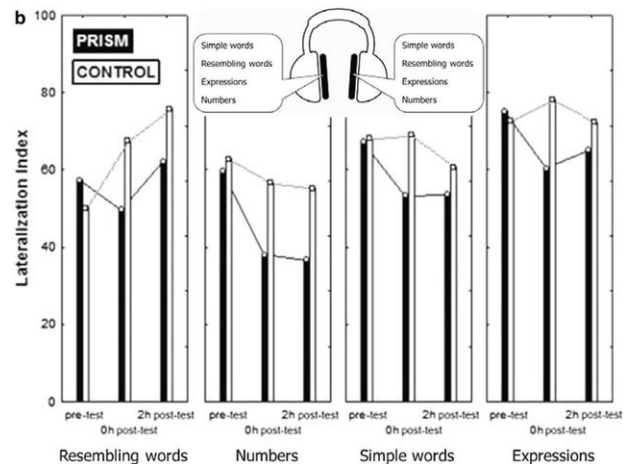
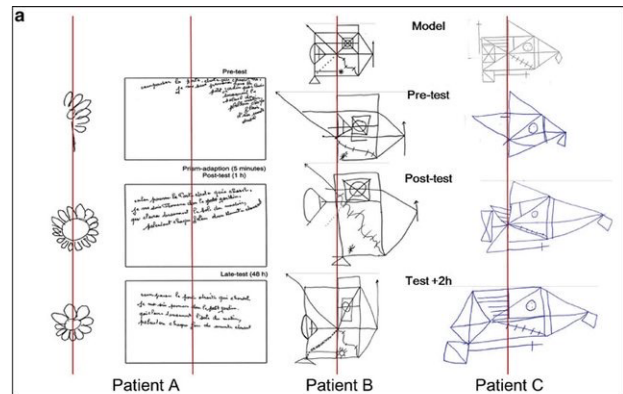
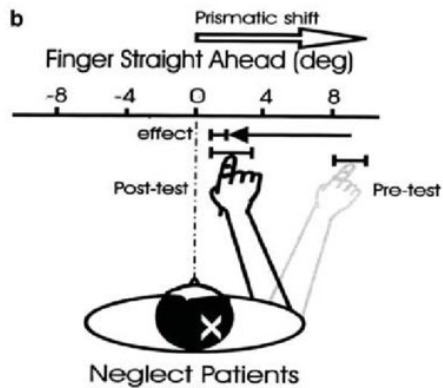
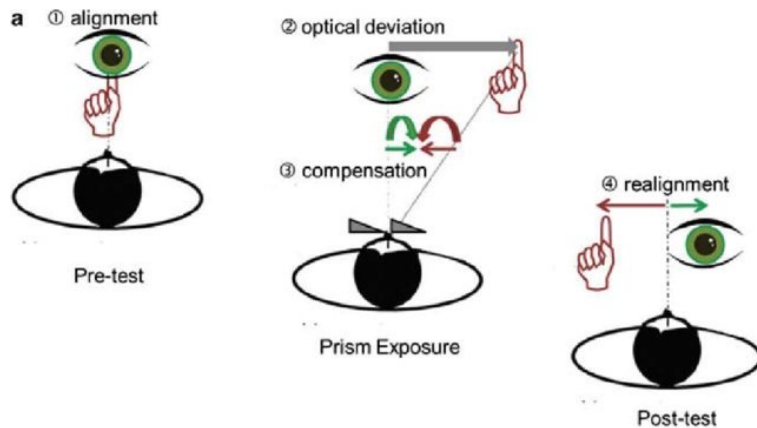


Quartarone et al. 2006 TINS

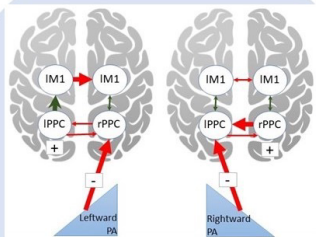
Prism adaptation-based therapy



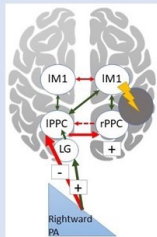




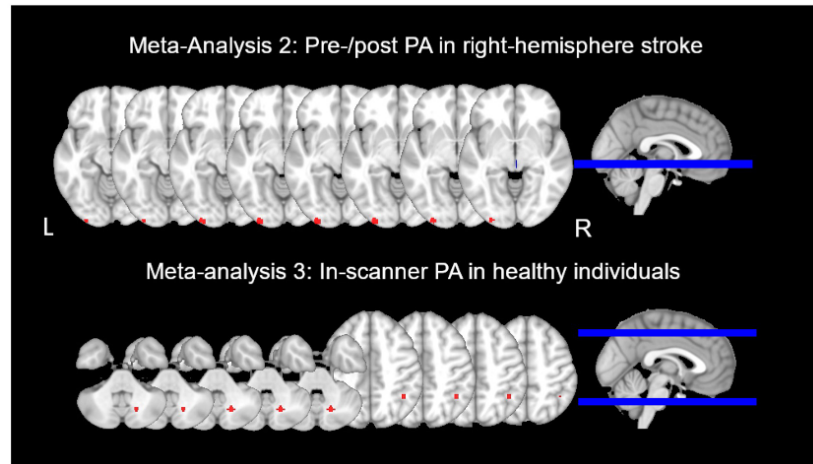
Neural Mechanisms of Prism Adaptation



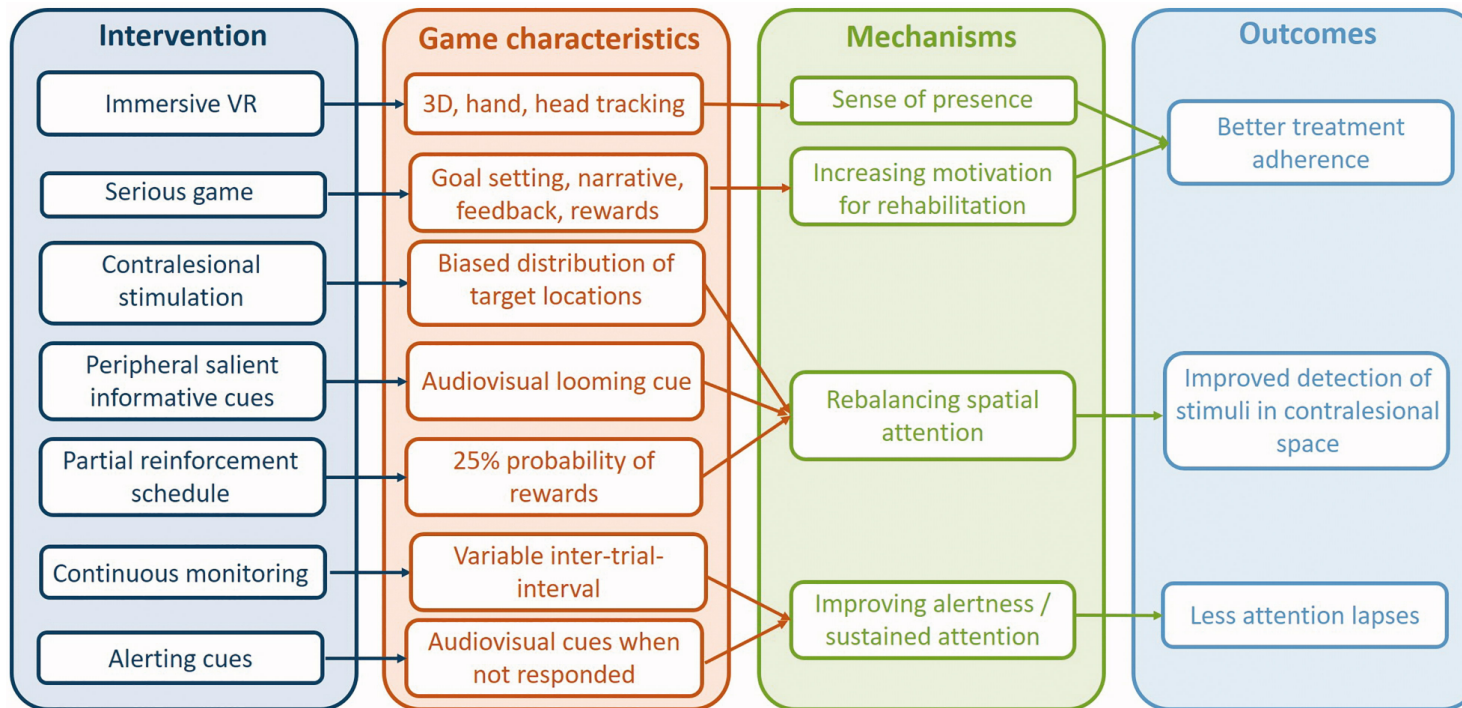
Prism adaptation (PA) in healthy adults activates posterior parietal cortex and cerebellum, reduces bilateral parieto-frontal, and increases fronto-limbic and sensorimotor network connectivity.

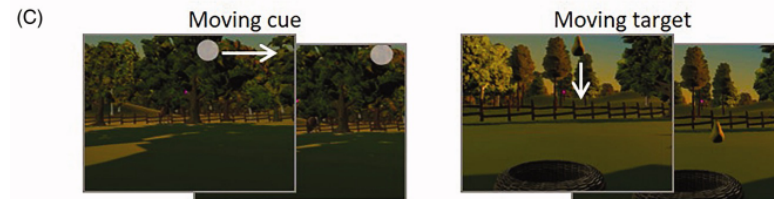
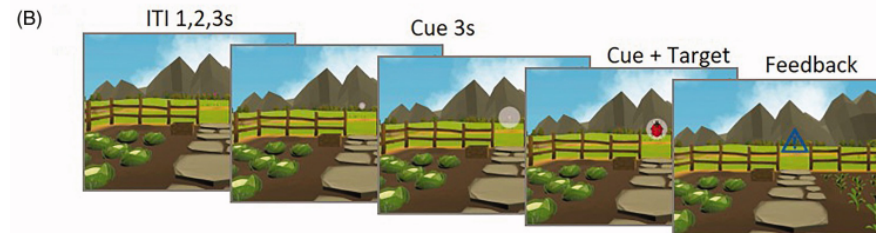
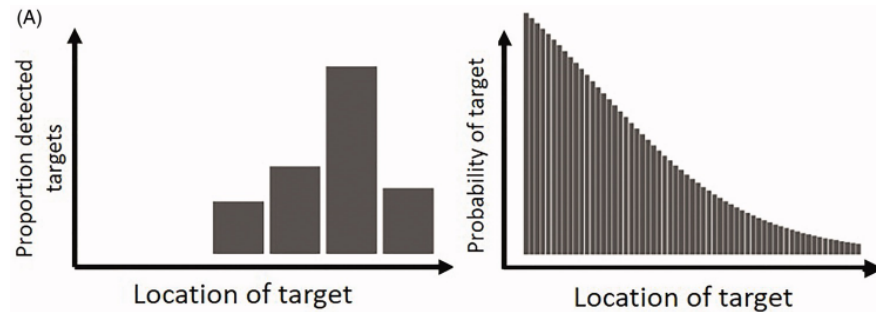
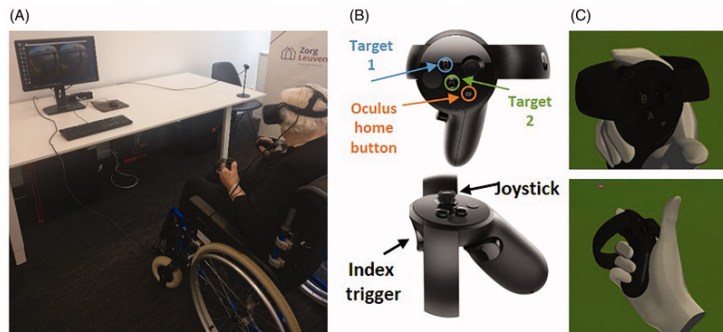


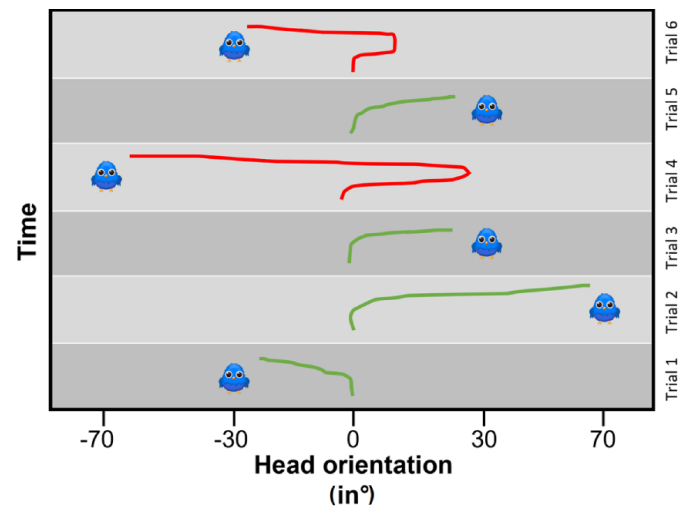
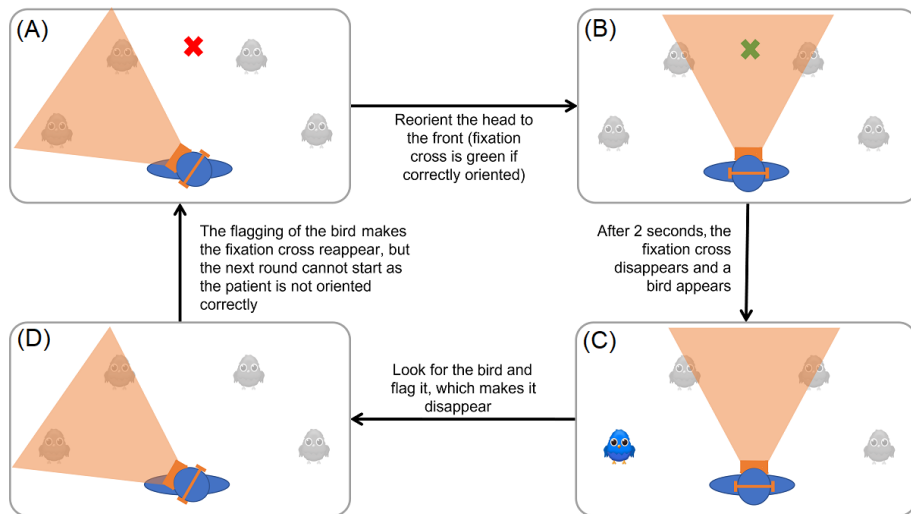
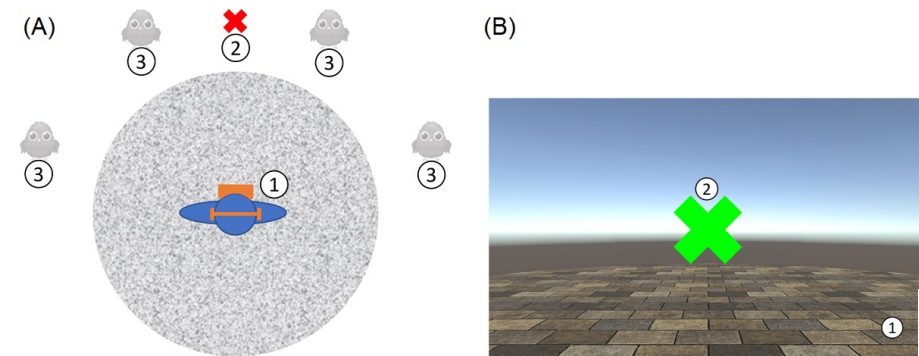
PA in right brain damaged individuals with spatial neglect relies on different circuits, such as, the intact left occipital cortex, indicating a hemispheric re-organization in spatial processing.



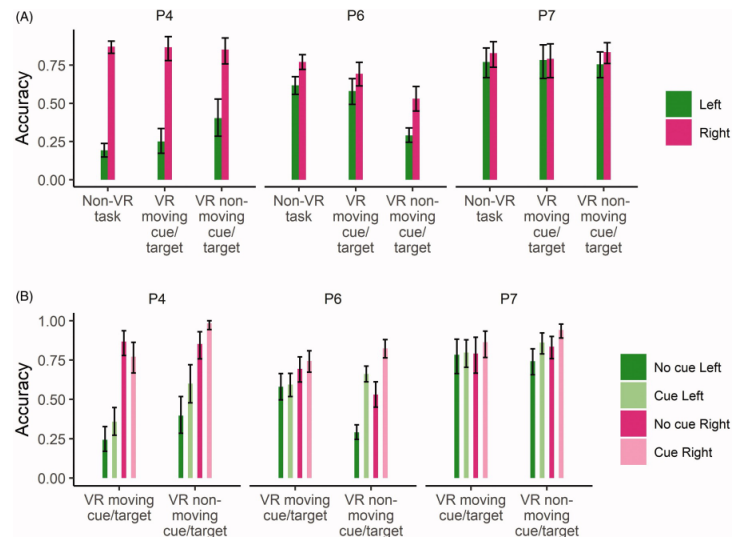
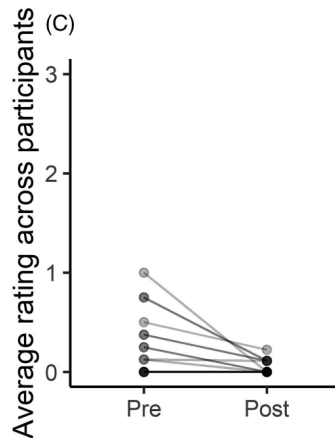
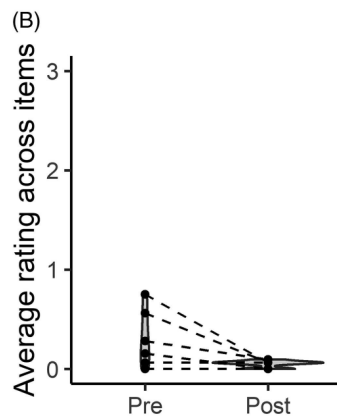
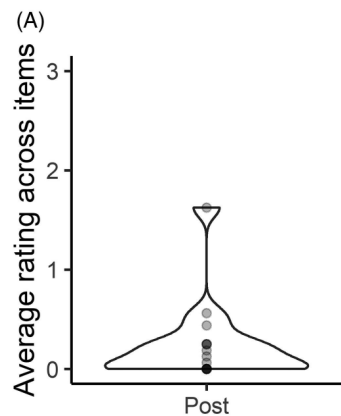
Allows to address several mechanisms simultaneously



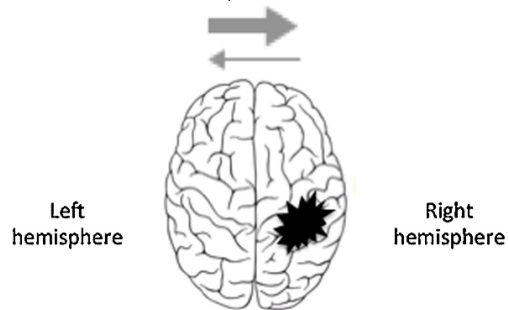




Proof-of-concept in few patients



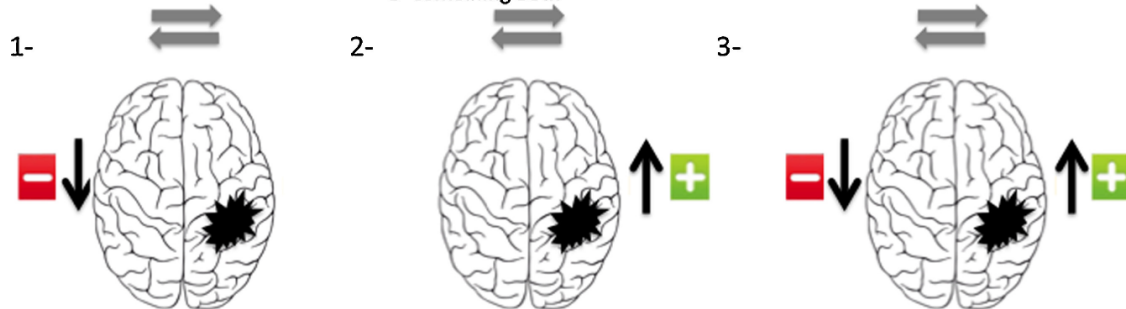
Spatial neglect: interhemispheric imbalance
brain lesion and reciprocal inhibition imbalance

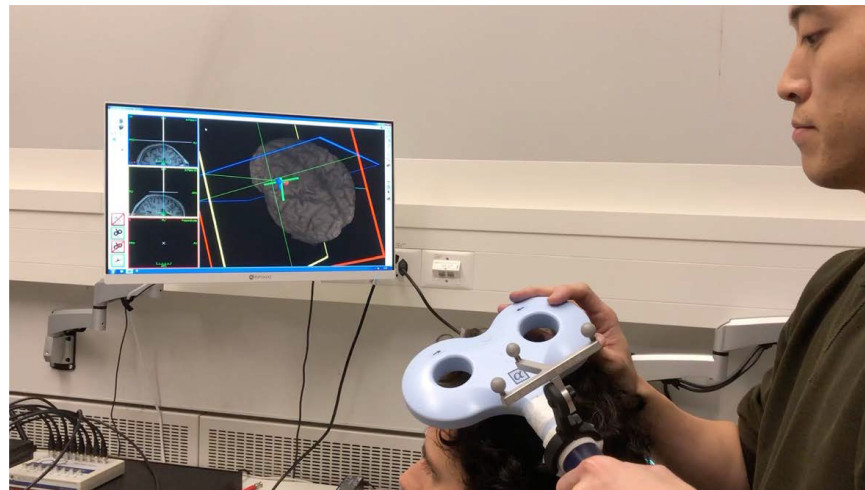
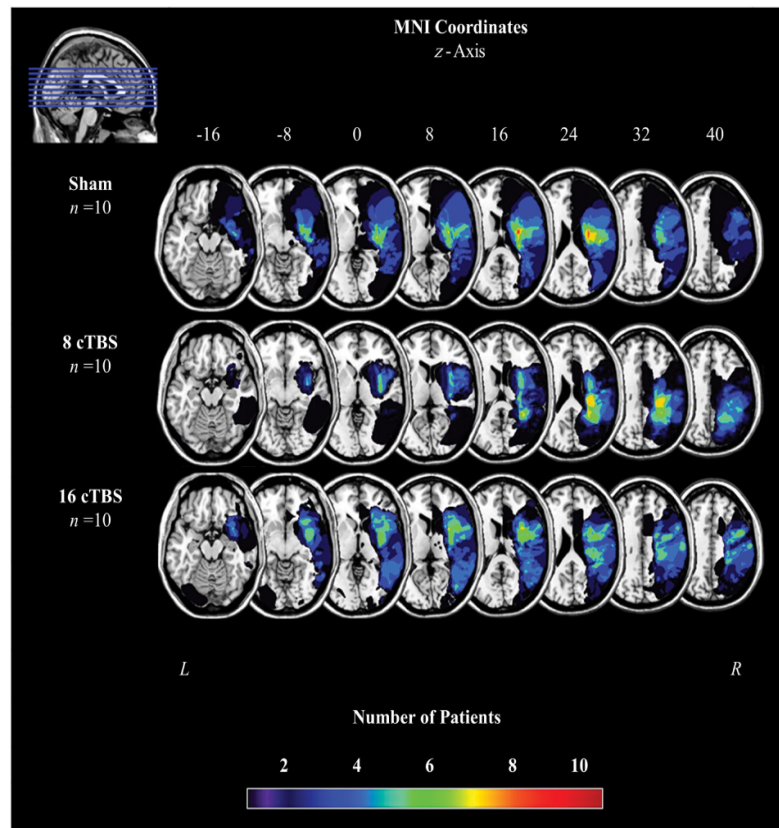


Rationale of non invasive brain stimulation

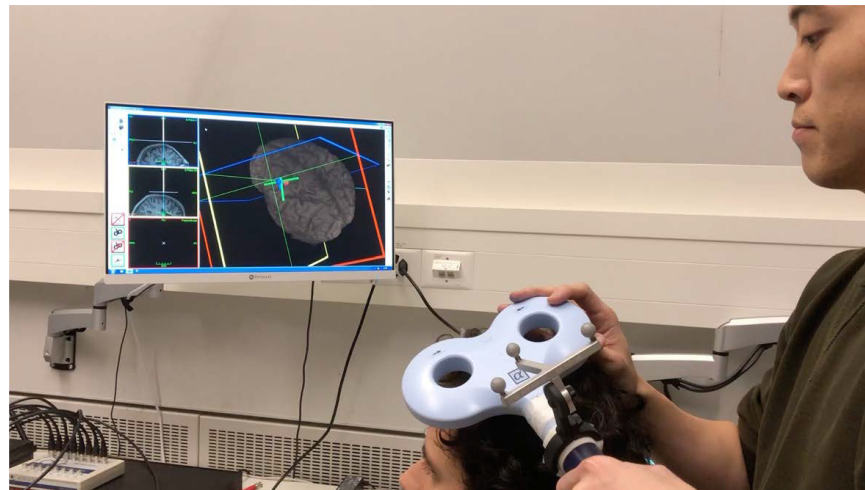
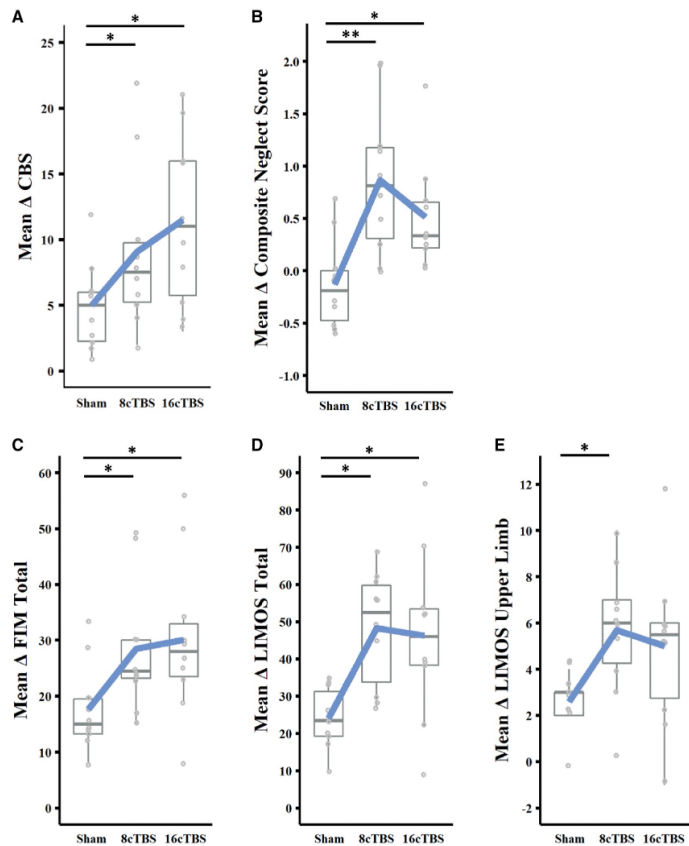
In neglect

- 1- reducing excitability of undamaged hemisphere
- 2- enhancing excitability of damaged hemisphere
- 3- combining both



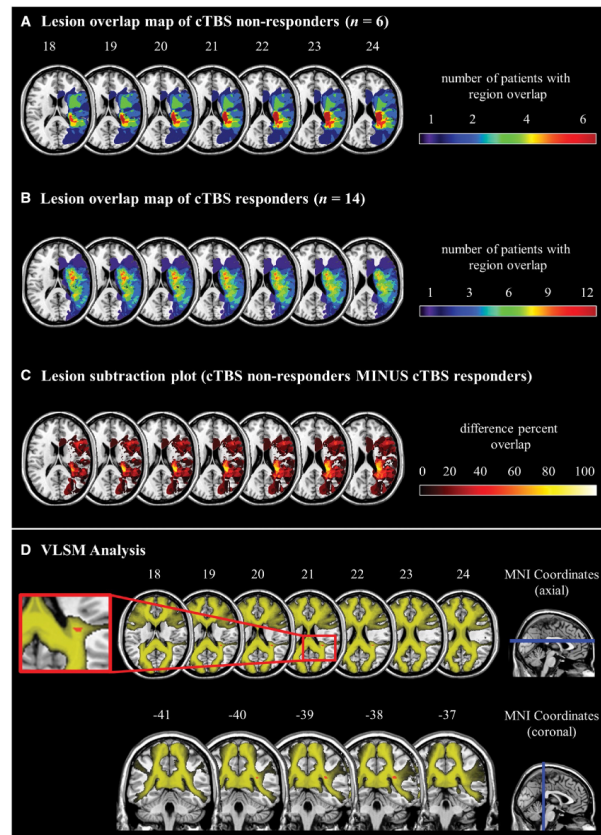
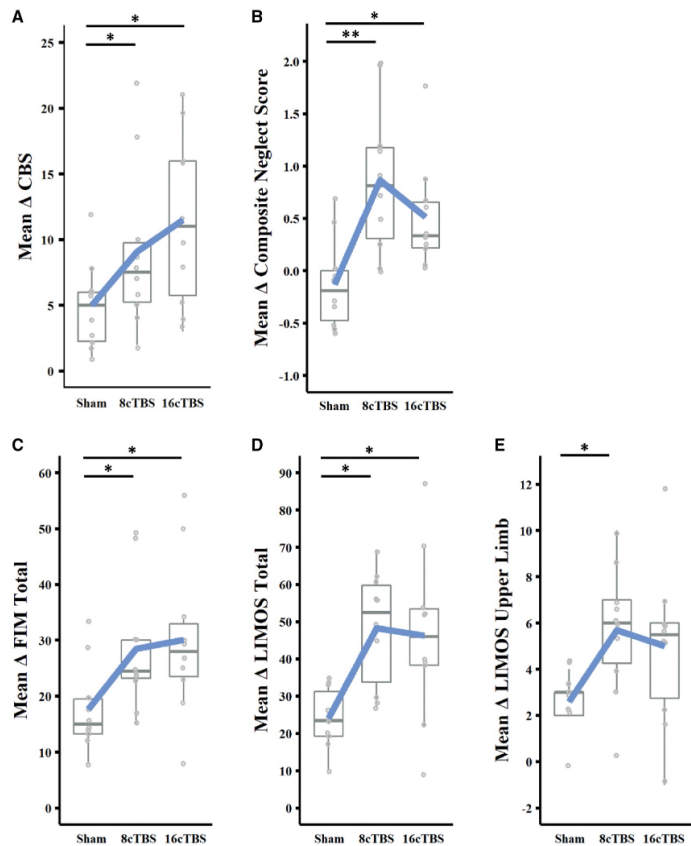


cTBS rTMS (inhibitory)
Applied to the left (non-lesioned) parietal cortex
2 different dosages
Placebo controlled
Subacute stroke patients

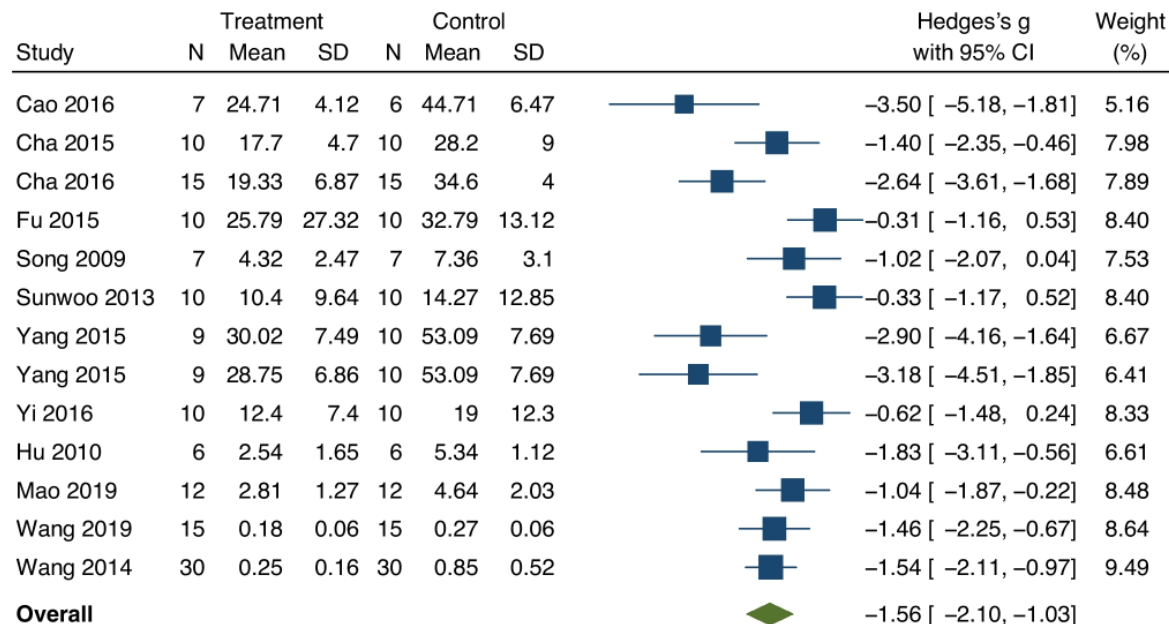


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Significant improvement in clinical measures



Significant improvement in clinical measures



Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.69$, $I^2 = 75.66\%$, $H^2 = 4.11$

Test of $\theta_1 = \theta_j$: $Q(12) = 42.27$, $p = 0.00$

Test of $\theta = 0$: $z = -5.75$, $p = 0.00$



Random-effects REML model

Neurotechnology offers treatment opportunities in neglect based on

Prism adaptation

VR-based cueing

Non-invasive brain stimulation

Next steps

Personalization

Larger trials

Development towards home-based, self-application

Questions?