Combined optokinetic stimulation and cueing-assisted reading therapy

Lisa Kunkel genannt Bode Klinik für Neurologie, University of Lübeck, Germany

Hemispatial neglect is a disabling cognitive disorder following stroke and effective therapies are required. It was investigated if a combined therapy consisting of optokinetic stimulation (OKS) and cueing-assisted reading therapy (READ) might be an effective approach to treat this disorder. In a randomized, controlled crossover trial 20 patients with left neglect received 15 daily sessions of OKSREAD as well as 15 sessions of a control treatment not targeting visuospatial attention. Primary outcomes were the change in performance of a customized neuropsychological test battery for neglect and a test of neglect-related functional disability, assessed before and after each treatment. The results showed that overall performance in the neglect test battery improved slightly more after OKSREAD than after the control treatment. The remission of neglect-related functional disability did not differ between treatments. Unfortunately, based on our results the applied OKSREAD treatment cannot be recommended as a rehabilitative treatment for neglect.