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# PAIN IN THE NECK

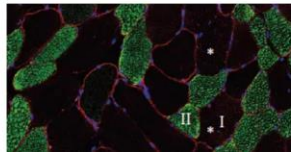
— NOTES FROM A NECK PAIN CLINIC —

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3 neck pain diagnostic tests



**Neck pain:** *can we learn anything from histochemistry?*



Oculomotor control

“Brilliant course. Great evidence-base.”

## The Neck: Clinical Rehabilitation

**CHRIS WORSFOLD**  
MSc PGDipManPhys MCSP MMACP  
Physiotherapist specialising in Neck Pain

*“He was probably one of the best speakers I have heard. Professional, informative, relaxed, well paced, fun, pertinent, clinically-based, practical, conceptual.”*

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**THE NECK: SENSORIMOTOR IMPAIRMENT IN SPORT**  
 ONE DAY COURSE SCHEDULE  
 CHRIS WORSFOLD MSc PGDIPMANPHYS MCSP MMACP  
 PHYSIOTHERAPIST SPECIALISING IN NECK PAIN

*Schedule*


**0900 - 0930** *Kinematics, pathology & concussion*  
**0930 - 1100** *Muscle performance*  
**1130 - 1300** *Sensorimotor impairment*  
**1300 - 1345** **LUNCH**  
**1345 - 1500** *Progressing treatment & case study*  
**1500 - 1630** *Case discussion*  
**1630** *Close*

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**THINK:**

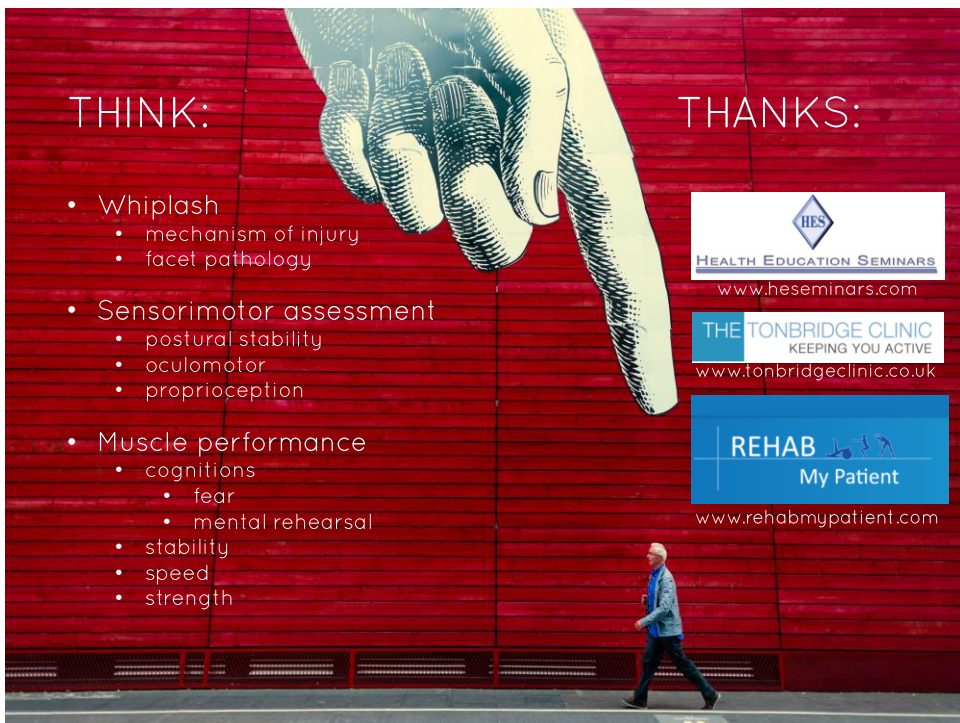
- Whiplash
  - mechanism of injury
  - facet pathology
- Sensorimotor assessment
  - postural stability
  - oculomotor
  - proprioception
- Muscle performance
  - cognitions
    - fear
    - mental rehearsal
  - stability
  - speed
  - strength

**THANKS:**

  
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## Case Study

- Mr A has 8 week history of headaches, neck pain & dizziness following a rugby tackling injury.
- What would you include in your initial assessment?

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“Most people with neck pain do not experience a complete resolution of this problem”

“In the working population neck pain follows a persistent or recurrent course”

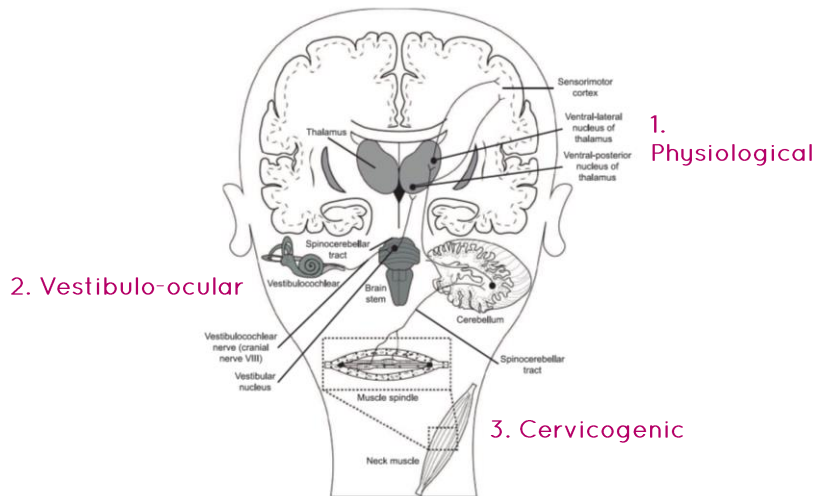
“Whiplash injury triples risk of future neck pain”

Carroll et al 2008  
Berglund et al 1998

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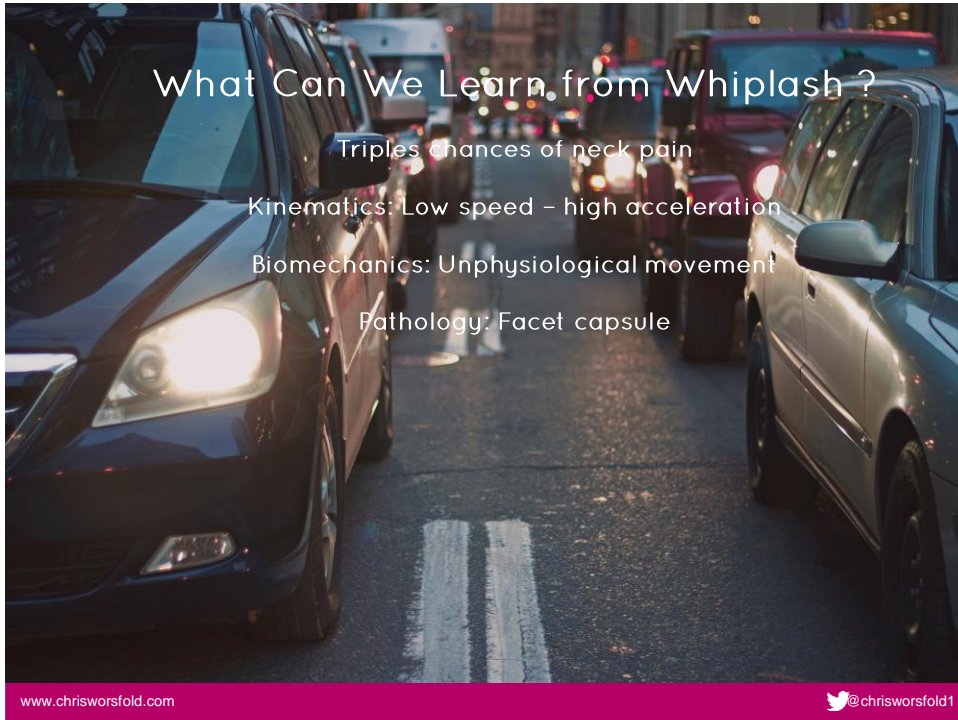
## Experimental & Clinical Features of Neck Pain

## Concussion



Cheever et al Journal of Athletic Training 2016;51(12):1037-1044





Kinematics: low speed, high acceleration

| Crash number and year of crash | Gender and direction of impact (front, rear) | $v_c$ (mph at time of crash) | $\Delta v$ (change in mph, or delta V) | Head linear resultant acceleration (g) |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| 15 (99)                        | M (F)  | 36.9                         | 17.1                                   | 10.3                                   |
| 2 (00)                         | M (R)  | 7.8                          | 5.8                                    | 12.7                                   |

## Crash test s99-15

**Subject:** RH

**Vc:** 36.9 mph

**delta V:** 17.1 mph

**Head acceleration:** 10.3 g

**Impact vector:** frontal w/airbag

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## Crash test s00-2

**Subject:** JH

**Vc:** 7.8 mph

**delta V:** 5.8 mph

**Head acceleration:** 12.7 g

**Impact vector:** rear

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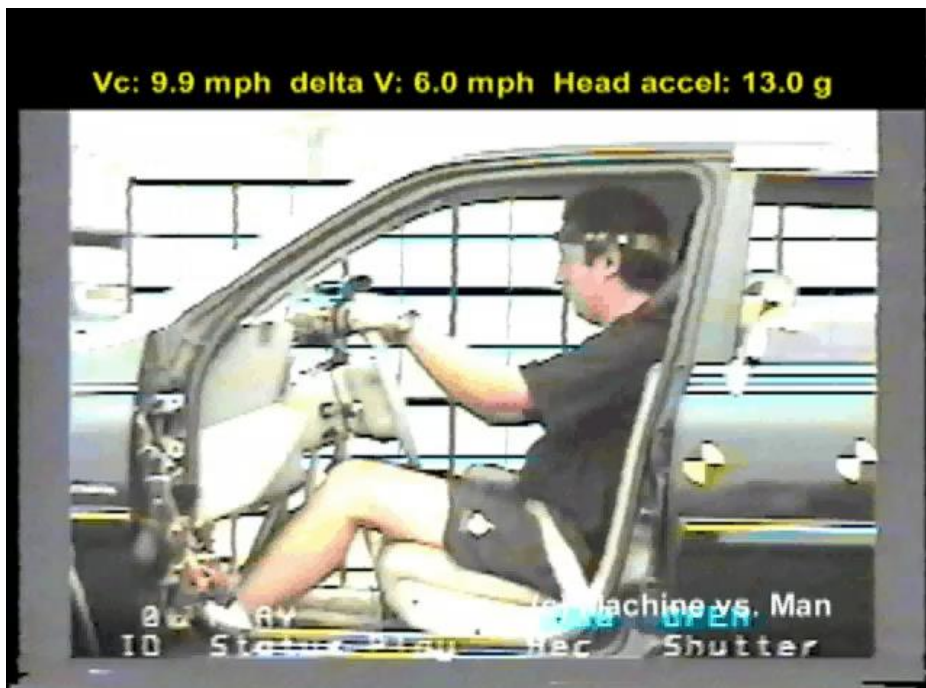
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# Biomechanics

- Major point of contact is seatback
- Lumbar extension 20ms
- Thoracic extension 60ms - 'ramping'
- Sigmoid deformation cervical spine
  - Upper cervical flexion / Lower cervical extension
- Muscle contraction onset 100-125ms after onset of vehicle acceleration
- Full cervical extension upper & lower
- 'Rebound phase' from extension into flexion

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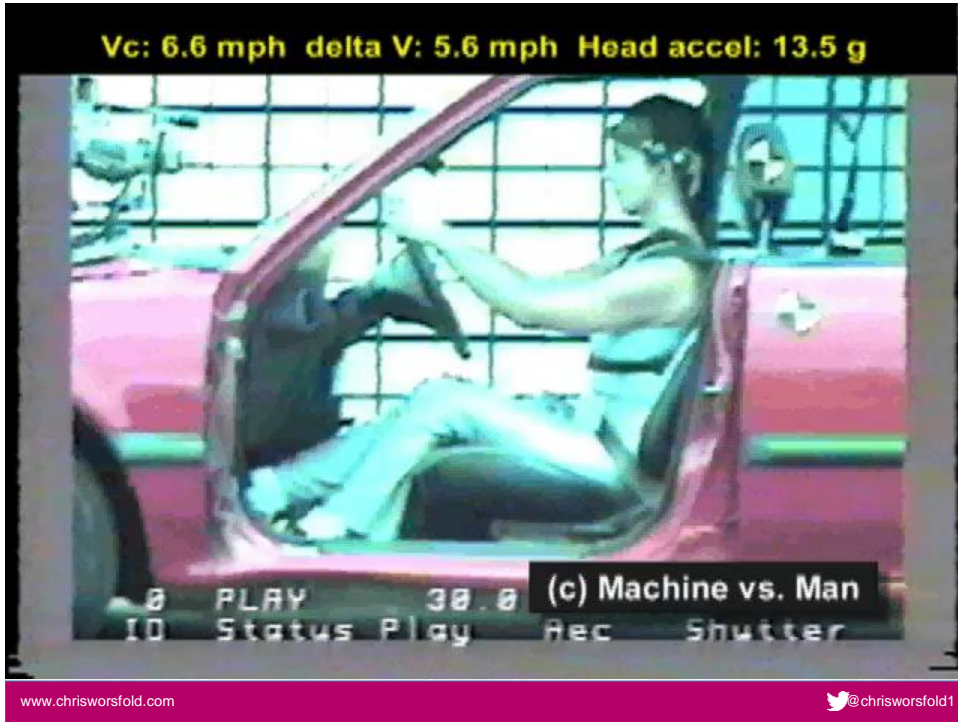
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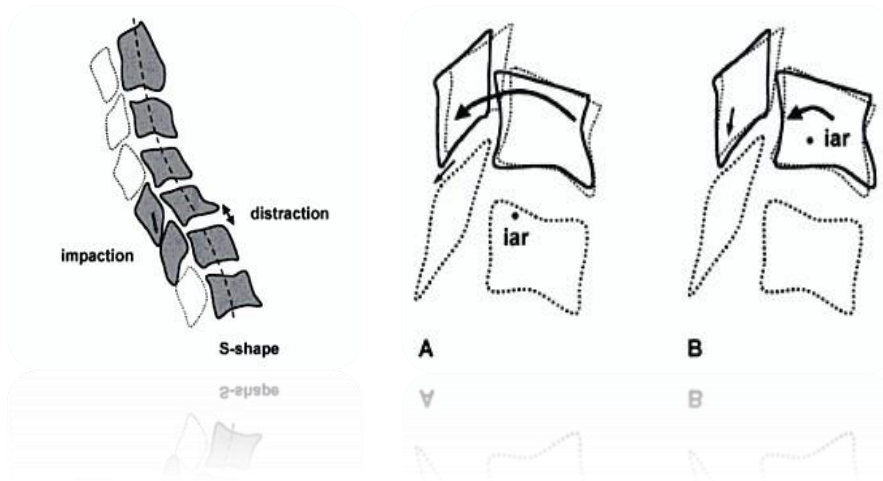
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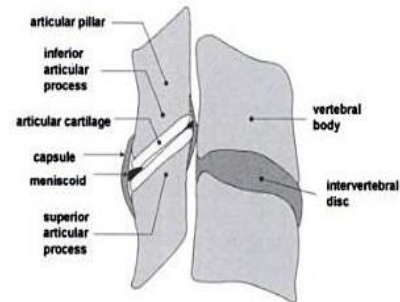


Biomechanics: Sigmoid deformation & Instantaneous Axis of Rotation ('IAR') shift



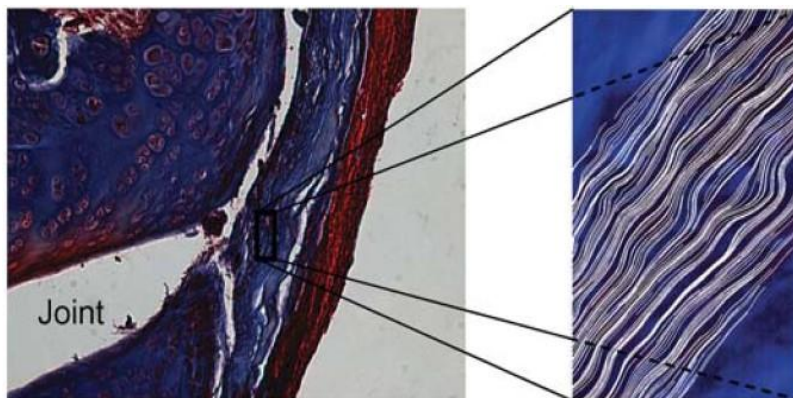
## Pathology: Facet Joint

- Facet capsule is thin, loose ligament.
- Instantaneous Axis of Rotation change.
- Pinching facet joints.
- Synovial fold pinching.



Courtesy of Neurology & Trauma Open University Press

## Pathology: Facet Joint



Collagen fibre organisation in rat facet capsular ligament (Masson Trichrome staining)

Image Courtesy of Siegmund et al Traffic Injury Prevention 2009

## Pathology: Facet Joint Capsule

- Normal strain 1-10%with ADL
- Activate nociceptors 13%strain
- Persistent sensitivity & fibre organisation altered 21%strain
- Mechanoreceptors & nociceptors saturated 40%strain
- Cadaveric specimens: strains of 29-40%recorded
- Neck rotation doubles strain



Image Courtesy of Siegmund et al  
Traffic Injury Prevention 2009

(Dong et al 2008; Quinn et al 2007)

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## Case Study

- Mr A has 8 week history of headaches, neck pain & dizziness following a rugby tackling injury.
- What would you include in your initial assessment?
- Tandem stand: eyes closed 10seconds max.
- Proprioception: 10cm left cervical rotation
- SPNT +ve left torsion: saccades, dizziness, increased effort
- Gaze stability: headache, dizziness and difficulty performing test with cervical flexion / extension

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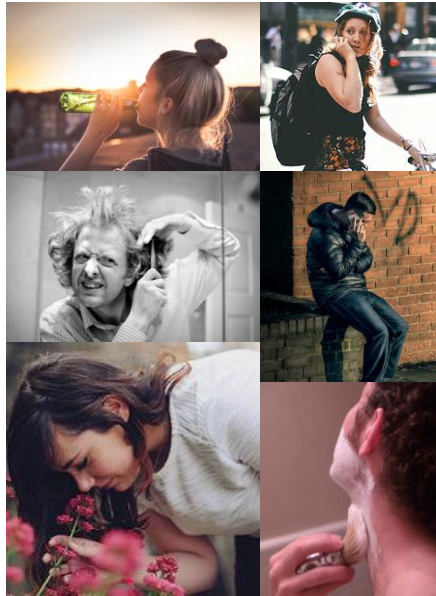
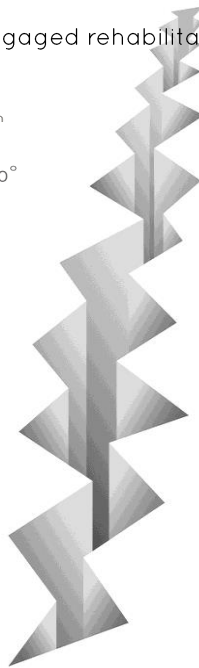
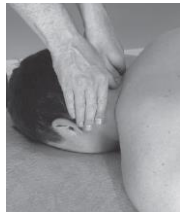
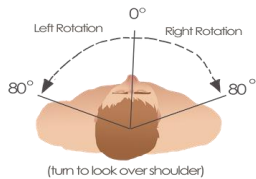
# Neck pain: muscle performance

- The mind
  - mental imagery
  - the role of fear in neck muscle performance
- Histology & morphology
- Muscle performance
  - strength
  - stability
  - co-ordination
  - speed
  - rigidity / stiffness
  - respiratory
- Assessing muscle performance
- Managing muscle performance

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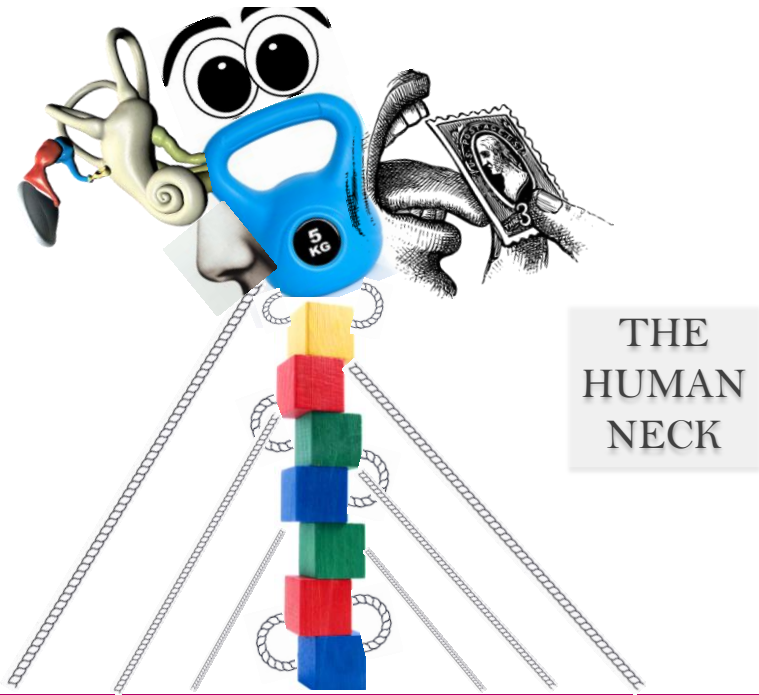
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Have we disengaged rehabilitation from day to day function?



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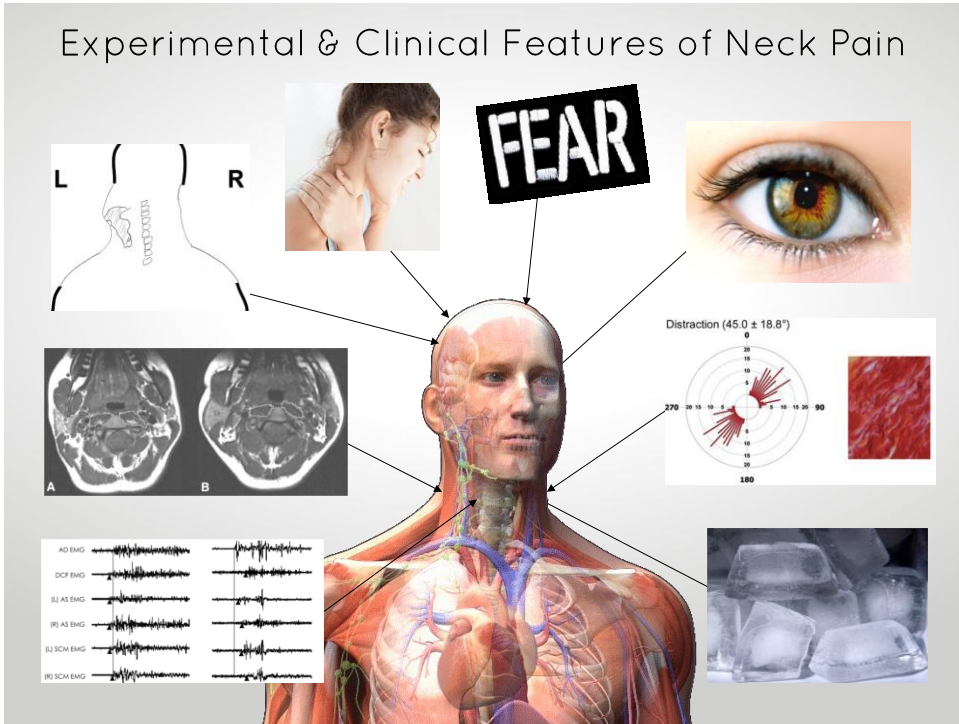
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Ankle sprain rehab  
-V-  
Neck pain rehab

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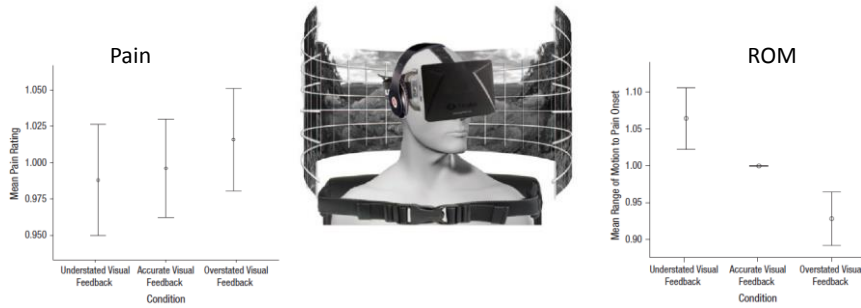
Range of motion tests do not reflect nociceptive drivers of pain

### Bogus Visual Feedback Alters Onset of Movement-Evoked Pain in People With Neck Pain



**Daniel S. Harvie<sup>1</sup>, Markus Broecker<sup>2</sup>, Ross T. Smith<sup>2</sup>, Ann Meulders<sup>3</sup>, Victoria J. Madden<sup>1</sup>, and G. Lorimer Moseley<sup>1</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Sansom Institute for Health Research, University of South Australia; <sup>2</sup>School of Information Technology and Mathematical Science, University of South Australia; and <sup>3</sup>Research Group on Health Psychology, University of Leuven

Psychological Science  
 1-8  
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 DOI: 10.1177/0956797614560389  
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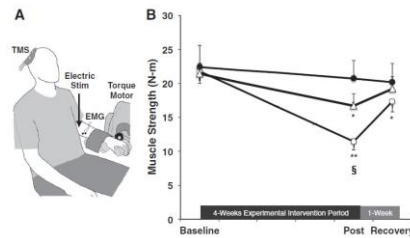
## Mental imagery attenuates immobilisation induced muscle loss by 50%

*J Neurophysiol* 112: 3219–3226, 2014.  
First published October 1, 2014; doi:10.1152/jn.00386.2014.

The power of the mind: the cortex as a critical determinant of muscle strength/weakness

Brian C. Clark,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Niladri K. Mahato,<sup>1</sup> Masato Nakazawa,<sup>1,4</sup> Timothy D. Law,<sup>1,5</sup> and James S. Thomas<sup>1,2,6</sup>

**MI training.** MI training was performed 5 times/wk. For each session, subjects performed 52 imagined maximal contractions of the casted wrist flexor muscles in a quiet room. The duration of each imagined contraction was 5 s, followed by 5 s of rest. Training was performed in four blocks of 13 imagined contractions each with 1 min of rest between the blocks. During the imagery sessions, subjects were



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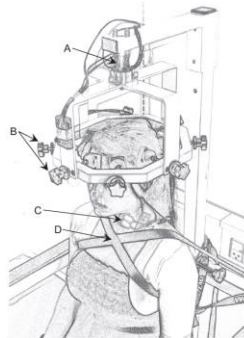
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Arch Phys Med Rehabil Vol 93, November 2012

## Current Pain and Fear of Pain Contribute to Reduced Maximum Voluntary Contraction of Neck Muscles in Patients With Chronic Neck Pain

René Lindstroem, DC, Thomas Graven-Nielsen, PhD, Deborah Falla, PhD

“Strength gains in rehabilitation can be due to reduced fear”

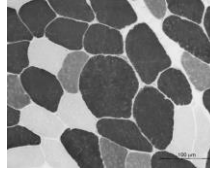
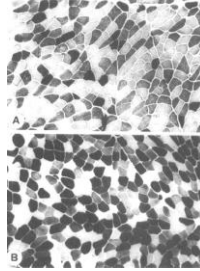


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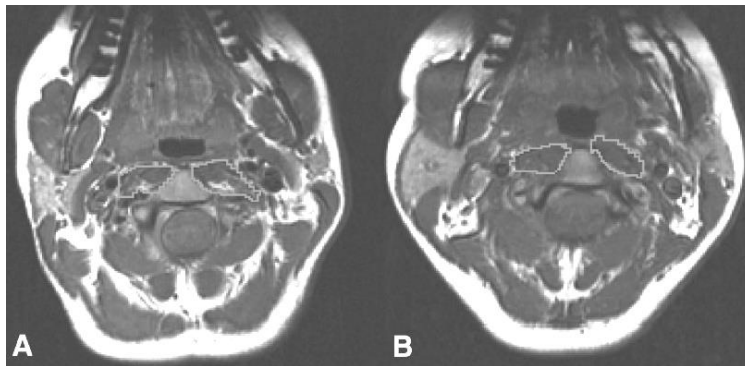
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## Neck pain: histology & morphology

- **Fibre-type transformation**
  - evidence of fibre type changes in muscles of cervical spine in chronic neck pain from Type I (slow-twitch oxidative) to Type IIB (fast-twitch oxidative fibres) (Uhlrig et al 1995)
- **Megafibres**
  - Cinderella hypothesis: low threshold motor units overloaded in sedentary occupations
  - Megafibres / 'moth eaten' / 'ragged red' / impaired microcirculation (Andersen et al 2008)



## Neck pain: histology & morphology



Muscle fatty infiltrate in whiplash

(Elliott et al 2008, 2009, 2010)

## Neck pain: strength & endurance

### Isometric Cervical Strength Normals

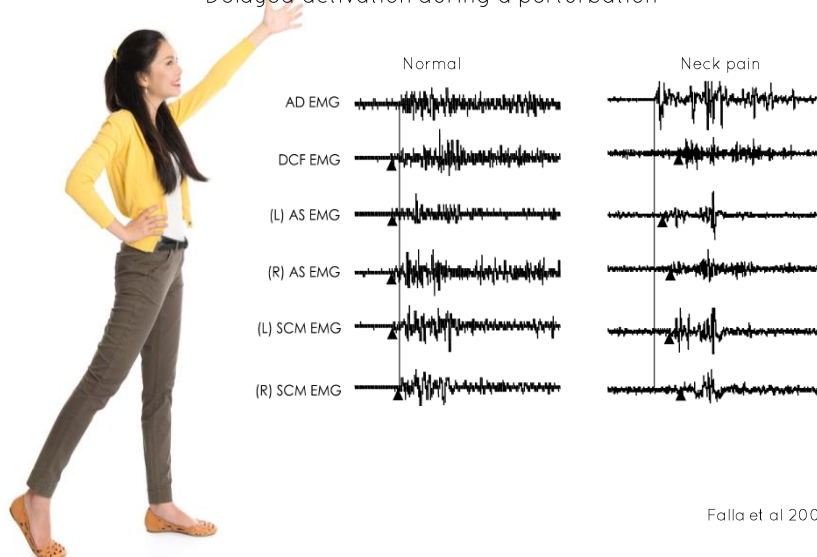
| Cervical Muscle Group | Chiu et al (2002) | Ylinen et al (2004) | Vernon (1999) | Jordan et al (1999) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Flexors               | 74.5N             | 75.7N               | 46N           | 59N                 |
| Extensors             | 93.3N             | 187.1N              | 79N           | 78N                 |

### Isometric Cervical Strength Neck Pain

| Cervical Muscle Group | Chiu et al (2002) | Ylinen et al (2004) | Prushansky et al (2005)        |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Flexors               | 56.7N             | 53.8N               | 20.6N (Male)<br>9.8N (Female)  |
| Extensors             | 67.5N             | 132N                | 24.6N (Male)<br>14.7N (Female) |

## Neck pain: co-ordination

Delayed activation during a perturbation

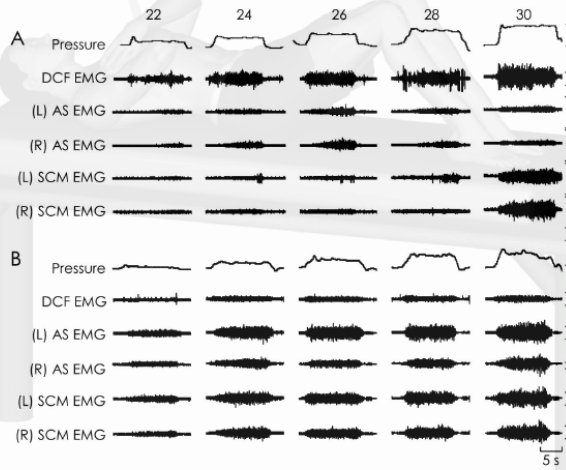


Falla et al 2004



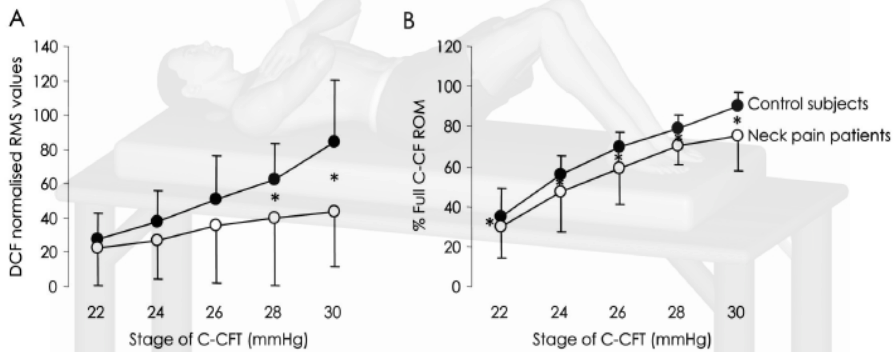
# Neck pain: reorganisation

Reorganisation of cervical flexor muscle activity during craniocervical flexion

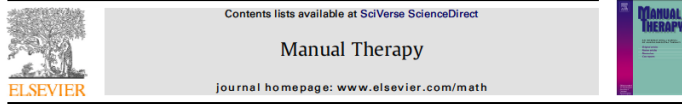


Falla et al 2004

## Neck pain: range of motion as surrogate for deep neck flexor activity



Falla et al 2004



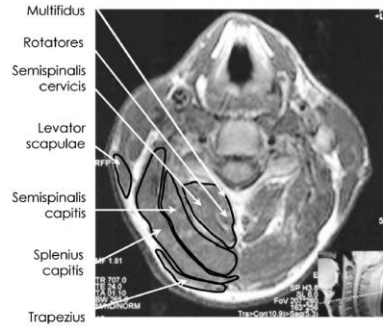
Review article

Function and structure of the deep cervical extensor muscles in patients with neck pain

Jochen Schomacher<sup>a</sup>, Deborah Falla<sup>b,c,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Fibrostrasse 5, Kilmacht ZH, Switzerland  
<sup>b</sup>Pain Clinic, Center for Anesthesiology, Emergency and Intensive Care Medicine, University Hospital Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany  
<sup>c</sup>Department of Neurorehabilitation Engineering, Bernstein Focus Neurotechnology Göttingen, Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, University Medical Center Göttingen, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany

- Increased activation superficial extensors
- Reduced activation deep neck extensors



Meisingset et al. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders* (2015) 16:56  
 DOI 10.1186/s12891-015-0517-2



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

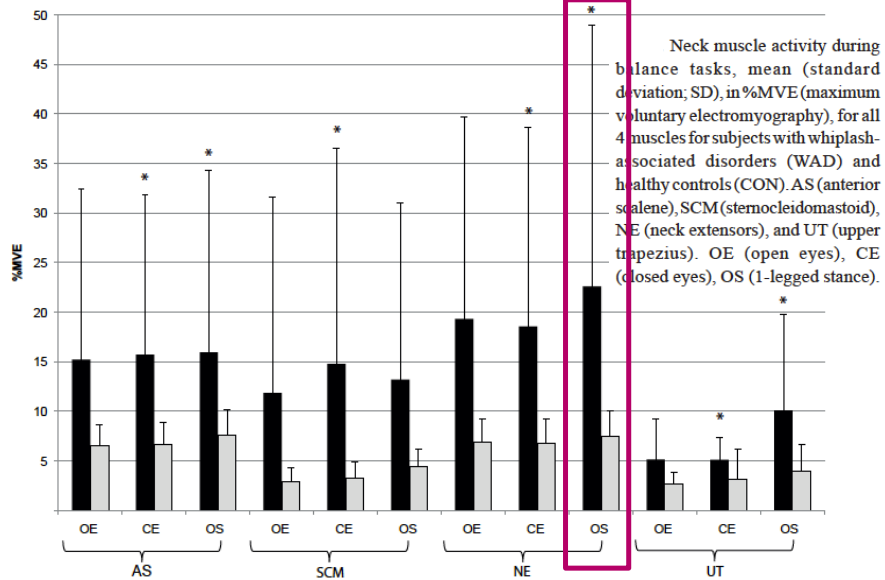
Evidence for a general stiffening motor control pattern in neck pain: a cross sectional study

Ingebrigt Meisingset<sup>1\*</sup>, Astrid Woodhouse<sup>1</sup>, Ann- Katrin Stensdotter<sup>1</sup>, Øyvind Stavadah<sup>2</sup>, Håvard Lorås<sup>1</sup>, Sigmund Gismervik<sup>1,2</sup>, Hege Andresen<sup>3</sup>, Kristian Austrheim<sup>1</sup> and Ottar Vasseljen<sup>1</sup>

|                                  | Neck pain (n = 75) | Healthy controls (n = 91) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Neck flexibility</b>          |                    |                           |
| Range of motion (°)              | 12.3 (11.3-13.3)   | 16.5 (15.6-17.4)          |
| CM (°) <sup>1</sup>              | 12.3 (11.3-13.3)   | 16.5 (15.1-16.9)          |
| CM (°) <sup>2</sup>              | 12.9 (11.9-14.0)   | 15.4 (14.4-16.3)          |
| CM (°) <sup>3</sup>              | 13.7 (12.4-15.0)   |                           |
| Peak velocity (°/s) <sup>1</sup> | 70.6 (62.5-78.7)   | 115.6 (108.4-122.8)       |

The theory emphasizes increased stiffness as an important motor adaptation to acute pain to protect or avoid movement of a painful body part. However, after the acute stage protective stiffening may no longer serve a purpose. The long term consequences of increased stiffness may be decreased movement and movement variability, and consequently increased load on the spine

## Neck pain: increased muscle rigidity in standing



Juhl-Kristensen 2013

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## Persistent neck pain & respiratory muscle weakness

- Reduced max voluntary ventilation (MVV), max inspiratory & expiratory pressures & peak expiratory flow
- 15-20% reduction – does not exceed cut offs (20%)
- The higher the NDI, the greater the impairment
- Respiratory muscle weakness correlates with reduced neck muscle strength, kinesiophobia & catastrophising
- Respiratory function should be assessed & treated

American Thoracic Society / European Respiratory Society 2002, Dimitriadis et al 2012, Wirth et al 2014

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## Neck pain: muscle performance summary

Delayed activation to postural perturbation  
Reduced velocity of motion

Reduced activity in deep neck flexors & extensors

Neck muscle weakness  
Impaired microcirculation  
Fibre-type transformation

Increased activity in superficial flexors and extensors  
Increased rigidity & stiffening in balance tasks

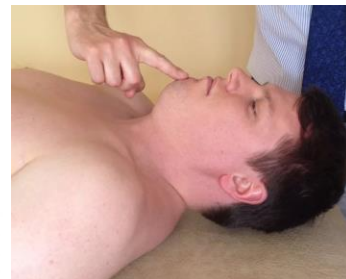


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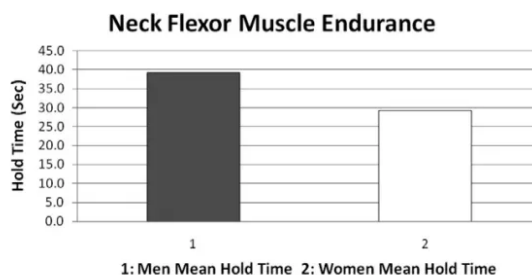
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## Stability I: flexor endurance test 'Straight leg raise' of the neck

- Lift head 2cm (measured from back of the head to the plinth)
- Time until the chin begins to 'thrust' is measured in seconds
- Chin 'thrust' is determined in two ways: by light finger pressure over the point of the subject's chin, and by observation.



Inter & intra-rater reliability good > 0.80



Domenech et al. 2011  
Olson et al 2006

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## Stability I: endurance tests to exhaustion



### Dorsal normals

2Kg women = 8.5 minutes  
4kg men = 7 minutes

Ventral normals  
Women = 30 seconds  
Men = 2.5 minutes



Inter & intra-rater reliability good > 0.80

Peolsson et al 2007

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## Stability II: deep neck flexors



- Deep Neck Flexors (DNF)
- Pressure biofeedback 5-stage craniocervical flexion
  - Starting pressure 20mmHg
  - Target 22 - 24 - 26 - 28 - 30mmHg
  - Hold each stage for 10 seconds



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### Stability III: deep neck extensors



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### Stability IV: side flexors



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# Neck muscle performance I

Head lifts



# Neck muscle performance II

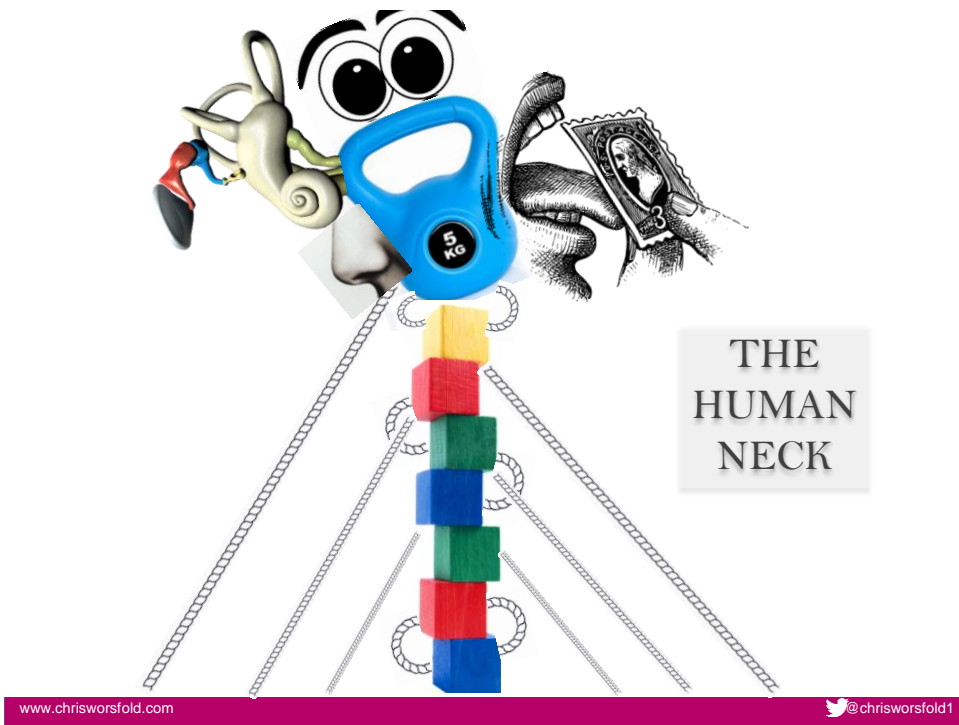
Manual resistance isometric

Extension

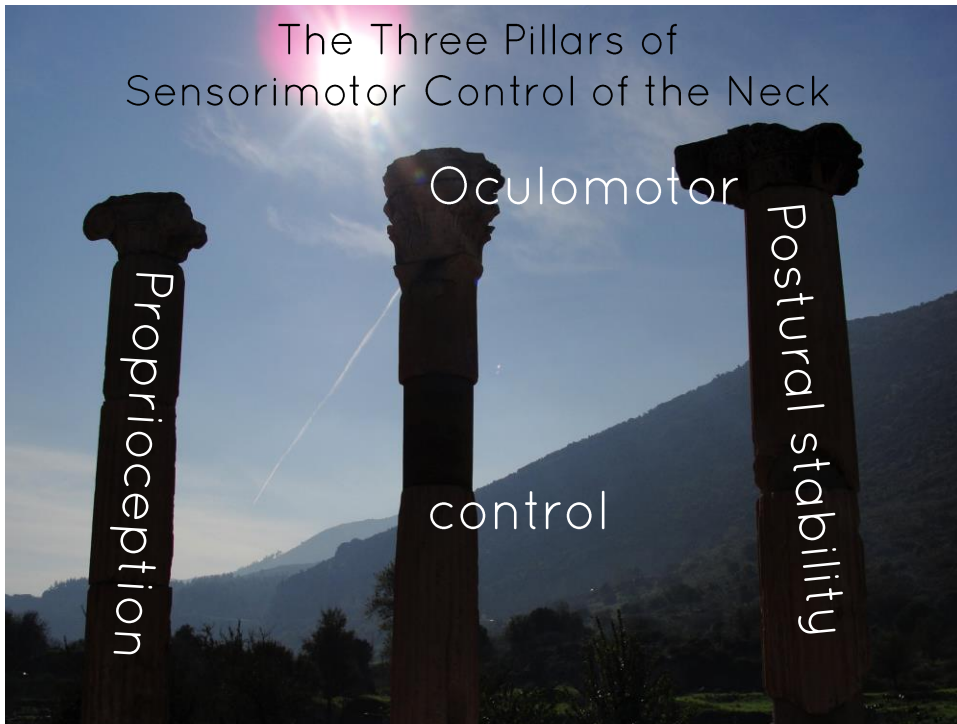


Flexion









Symptoms of **cervical** sensorimotor impairment

- Not a true vertigo 'illusion of movement' - room spinning
- Dizziness / giddiness
- Light headedness / off balance
- Unsteadiness
- Walking on cotton wool
- 33% neck pain (Humphreys et al 2002)
- 74% neck trauma (Treleaven et al 2003)

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The image features a black and white photograph of a young child covering their eyes with both hands. The background is a high-angle, black and white view of a dense cityscape, likely New York City, with many skyscrapers and buildings. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing a list of symptoms and statistics. At the bottom, there is a pink bar with the website URL and a Twitter handle.

## Vision related symptoms in neck pain

- Need to concentrate to read\*
- Visual fatigue\*
- Sensitivity to light\*
- Blurred vision
- Words moving
- Difficulty judging distances
- Double vision NOT associated with neck pain

\*most common – 50% of neck pain

Treleaven & Takasaki 2014

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## Causes of sensorimotor impairment

- Cervical arterial dysfunction
- Side effects of medication / anxiety – but no association (Treleaven et al 2006)
- Peripheral vestibular lesions – Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV)  
(Dispenza et al 2011, n=18, BPPV  $\Delta$  in 30%)
- ‘Cervical afferent disturbance’

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## Causes of sensorimotor impairment: concussion

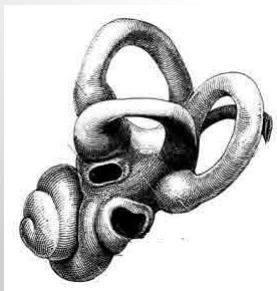
'Specific areas of the brain, such as the cerebellum, cerebral cortex, thalamus, reticular formation, and brainstem, are responsible for integrating sensory information from the vestibular apparatus and sensory organs to allow an athlete to move and orient body position to space and time'

Kontos et al 2017 Journal of Athletic Training 2017;52(3):256-261

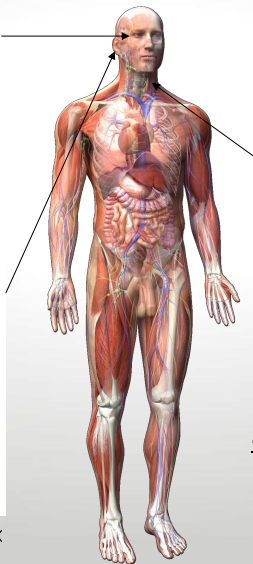
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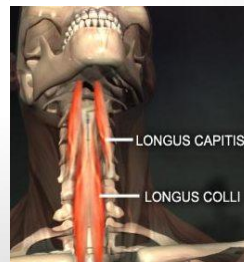
## Sensorimotor disturbance



Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex



Muscle spindle input augmented with input from visual and vestibular system: Extensive anatomical connections.



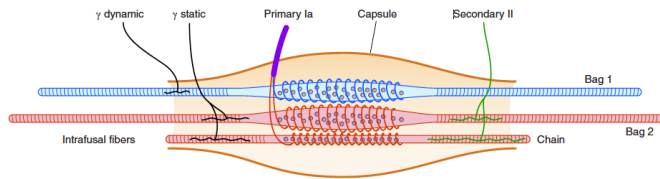
Cervico-Ocular Reflex

Gosselin et al. (2004)  
Schiepatti et al. (2003)  
Vuillerme et al. (2005)  
Stapley et al. (2006)

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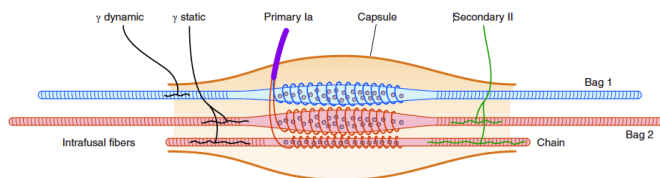
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## Sensorimotor disturbance: muscle spindles



- High density of muscle spindles in small intrinsic deep dorsal and suboccipital muscles (Peck 1984, Richmond & Bakker 1982)
- Localised in slow twitch fibres – role in postural control
  - LA injected into cervical tissues = ataxia (deJong et al 1977)
    - Neck vibration = postural control (Pyykkö et al 1989)
    - Neck fatigue = postural control (Gosselin et al 2004)

## What is the mechanism affecting cervical afferent activity ?



- No evidence of muscle damage in whiplash
  - “Prolonged symptoms following whiplash injury cannot be explained by biochemically measurable muscle damage.” (Scott and Sanderson 2002)
    - Fatty infiltration (Elliott et al 2006)
- Cervical muscular fatigue - ‘overactivity’ (Stapley et al 2006)
- Disturbed afferent input - mechanoreceptors / dorsal root ganglion trauma
  - Stress response & sympathetic nervous system



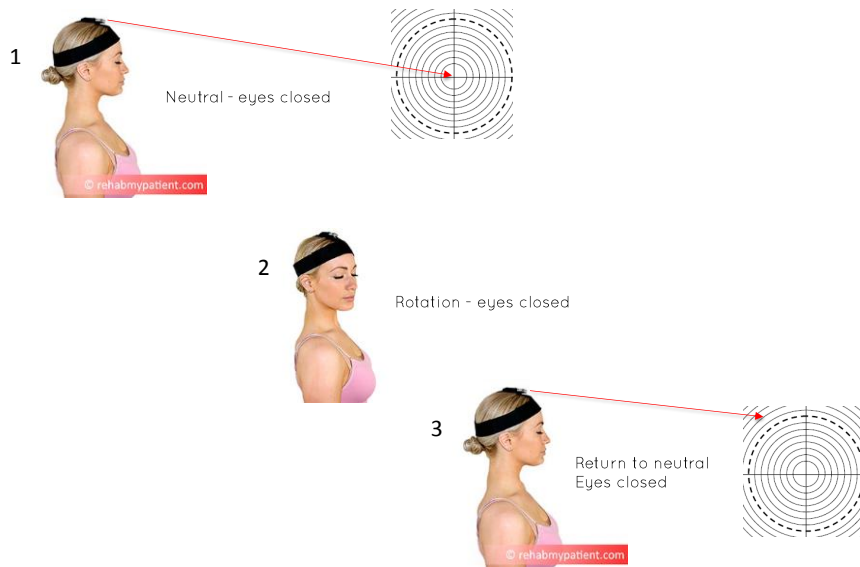
## Assessing Proprioception

- Sherrington (1900)
  - Defined proprioception as awareness of body position and orientation.
  - The sixth sense / conscious awareness
- Contralateral angles: matched and compared or body segment repositioned in space without the aid of vision.
- Neck has no side for comparison!

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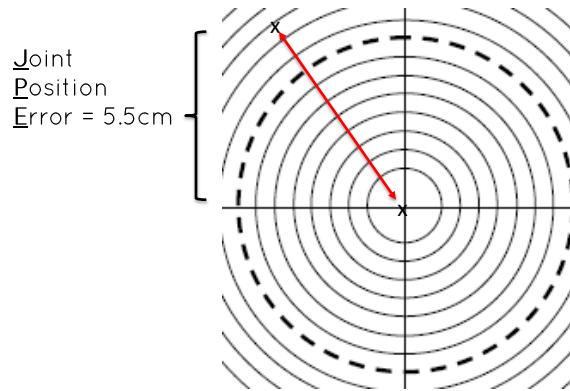
## Sensorimotor control: laser & target



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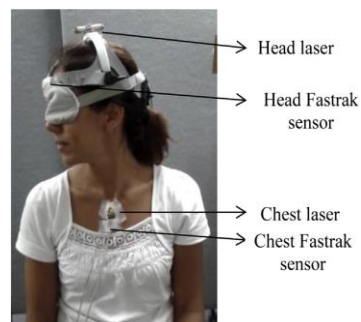
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## Sensorimotor control: laser & target



## Assessing Joint Position Error - research

- Validity of 'laser & target' method:
  - mod to strong correlations with Fastrak (Chen et al 2013)
- Reliability of 'laser & target' method:
  - Most studies report ICC above 0.75 (Jørgensen et al 2014)



# Evidence of Impaired Proprioception in Chronic, Idiopathic Neck Pain: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Tasha R. Stanton, Hayley B. Leake, K. Jane Chalmers, G. Lorimer Moseley

T.R. Stanton, BScPT, MScRS, PhD, The Sansom Institute for Health Research, The University of South Australia, School of Health Sciences, GPO Box 2471, Adelaide, South Australia 5001; Pain Adelaide Consortium, Adelaide

**Background.** Despite common use of proprioceptive retraining interventions in people with chronic, idiopathic neck pain, evidence that proprioceptive dysfunction exists in this population is lacking. Determining whether proprioceptive dysfunction exists in people with chronic neck pain has clear implications for treatment prescription.

Manual Therapy xxx (2015) 1–9



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Manual Therapy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/math](http://www.elsevier.com/math)



Systematic review

## Joint position sense error in people with neck pain: A systematic review

J. de Vries<sup>a, b, \*</sup>, B.K. Ischebeck<sup>a, c, 1</sup>, L.P. Voogt<sup>b, 2</sup>, J.N. van der Geest<sup>a, 3</sup>, M. Janssen<sup>a, 4</sup>, M.A. Frens<sup>a, d, 5</sup>, G.J. Kleinrensink<sup>a, 6</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Neuroscience, Erasmus MC, P.O. Box 2040, 3000 CA Rotterdam, The Netherlands

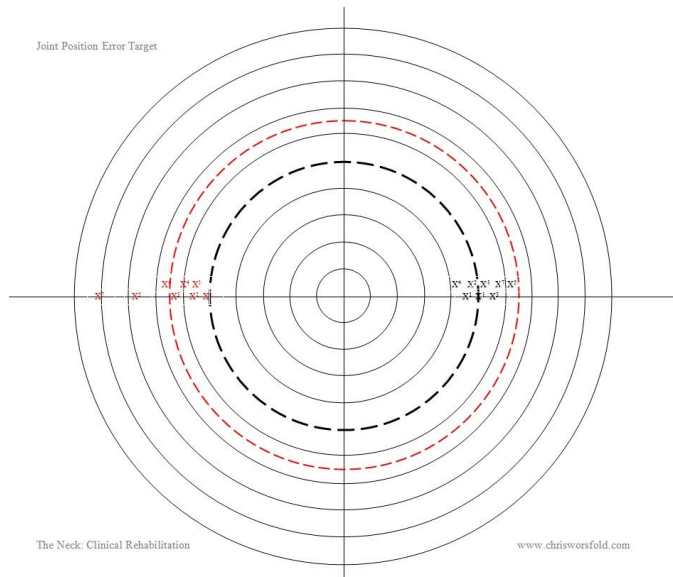
<sup>b</sup> Department of Physical Therapy, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Boekseestraat 158, 3015 EK Rotterdam, The Netherlands

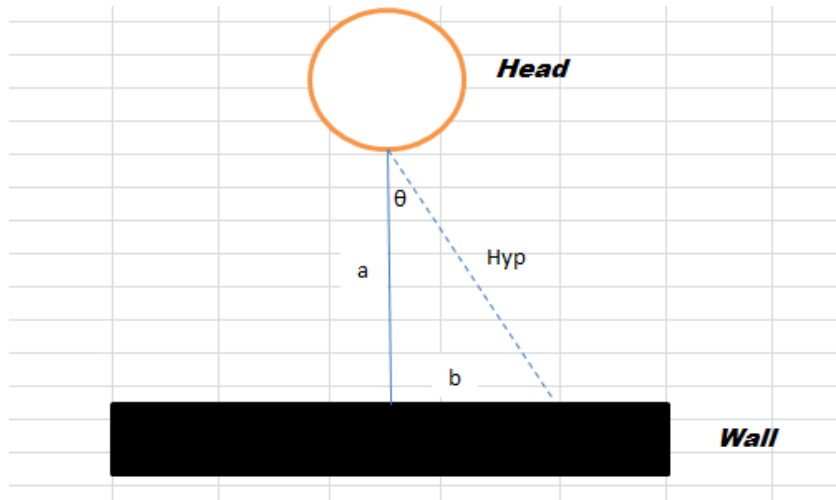
<sup>c</sup> Spine and Joint Centre, Noordzijde 113, 3025 EM Rotterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>d</sup> Erasmus University College, Rotterdam, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 BR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>e</sup> Department of Neuroscience-Anatomy, Erasmus MC, P.O. Box 2040, 3000 CA Rotterdam, The Netherlands

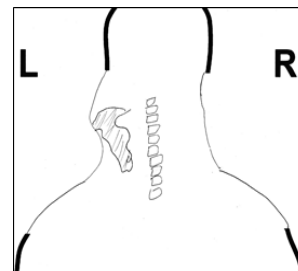
## Assessing Joint Position Error - target





## Assessing Joint Position Error - research

- JPE increases with age (Vuillerme et al 2007)
- No predictive utility - not related to outcome.
- Dizziness = increased JPE (Treleaven et al 2003)
- Vestibular vs Whiplash subjects = no difference but whiplash group main complaint dizziness / unsteadiness (Treleaven et al 2008)
- JPE has strong correlation with laterality judgment in recurrent neck pain (Elsig et al 2014)



Disrupted body image 6/52 following whiplash injury. Shaded area indicates site of pain. (Worsfold 2011, unpublished data).

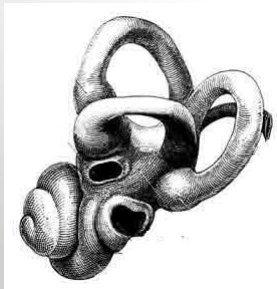


## Assessing Joint Position Error - summary

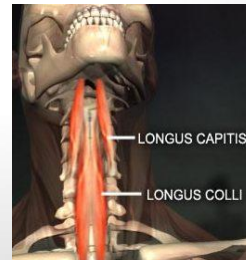
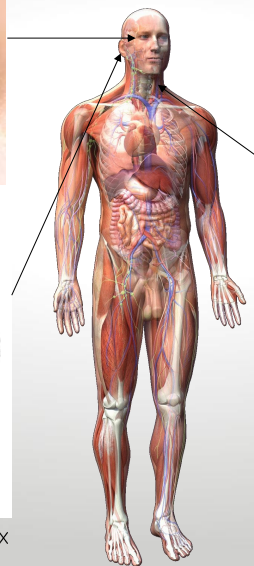
- Good reliability with laser and target with mean of six trials.
- Appears to discriminate between normals and whiplash subjects.
- Normal approx. 5cm Abnormal  $> 6.5\text{cm}$
- May not be a specific test of cervical afferent function.

## Sensorimotor disturbance:

Muscle spindle input augmented with input from visual and vestibular system:  
Extensive anatomical connections.

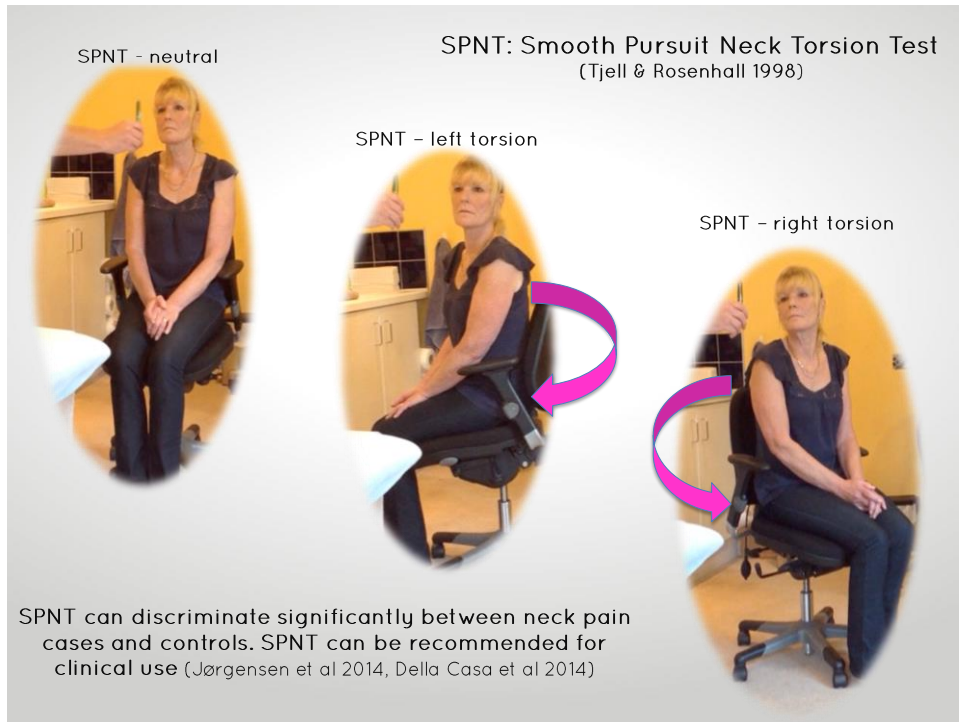


Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex



Cervico-Ocular Reflex

Gosselin *et al.* (2004)  
Schiepatti *et al.* (2003)  
Vuillerme *et al.* (2005)  
Stapley *et al.* (2006)



Ischebeck et al. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders* (2016) 17:441  
DOI 10.1186/s12891-016-1284-4

BMC Musculoskeletal  
Disorders

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## Eye movements in patients with Whiplash Associated Disorders: a systematic review



Britta Kristina Ischebeck<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Jurryt de Vries<sup>3,2</sup>, Jos N Van der Geest<sup>2</sup>, Malou Janssen<sup>2</sup>, Jan Paul Van Wingerden<sup>1</sup>, Gert Jan Kleinrensink<sup>2</sup> and Maarten A Frens<sup>2,4</sup>

N=14 studies

“Studies show deficits in eye movement in patients with whiplash.”



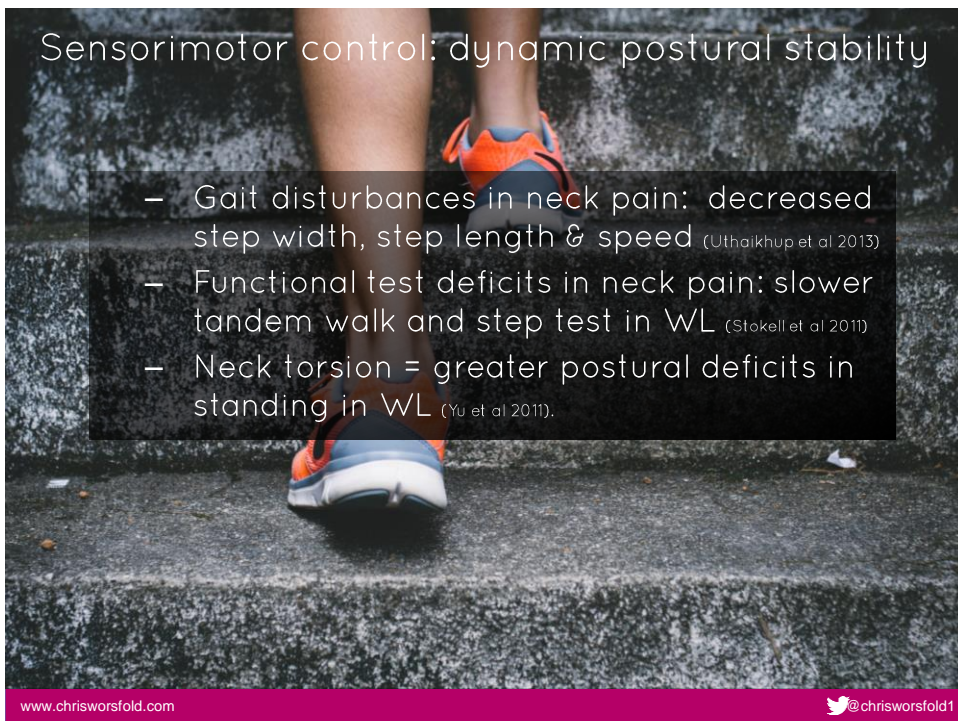
Sensorimotor control:  
postural stability

Increased AP sway in whiplash subjects > idiopathic neck pain > normal (Field et al 2008)

50% non-dizzy whiplash subjects unable tandem stand eyes closed (Field et al 2008)


74% dizzy whiplash subjects unable tandem stand eyes closed (Treleaven et al 2008)

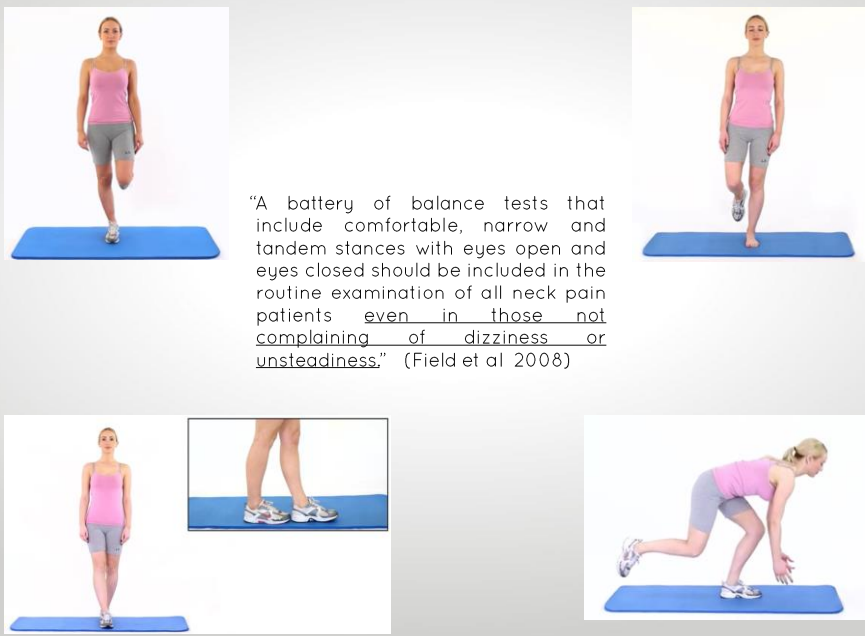
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Sensorimotor control: dynamic postural stability

- Gait disturbances in neck pain: decreased step width, step length & speed (Uthairakul et al 2013)
- Functional test deficits in neck pain: slower tandem walk and step test in WL (Stokell et al 2011)
- Neck torsion = greater postural deficits in standing in WL (Yu et al 2011).

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“A battery of balance tests that include comfortable, narrow and tandem stances with eyes open and eyes closed should be included in the routine examination of all neck pain patients even in those not complaining of dizziness or unsteadiness.” (Field et al 2008)

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Physiotherapy Theory and Practice, 29(1):1-18, 2013  
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 ISSN: 0959-3985 print/1532-5040 online  
 DOI: 10.3109/09593985.2012.677111

**informa**  
healthcare

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

# Standing balance in patients with whiplash-associated neck pain and idiopathic neck pain when compared with asymptomatic participants: A systematic review

Anabela G. Silva, PhD,<sup>1</sup> and Ana Lúcia Cruz, MSc<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Physiotherapist, Adjunct Professor, School of Health Sciences, University of Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal

<sup>2</sup>Physiotherapist, Senior Lecturer, School of Health Sciences, University of Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal

N=12 studies

“Both patients with idiopathic neck pain & patients with whiplash have poorer balance than healthy controls.”

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## Sensorimotor control assessment

- Postural stability
  - Comfortable / Narrow / Tandem / 1-Leg
  - Eyes Closed
  - Foam
- Joint Position Error
  - Laser & target
- Oculomotor
  - Eye movements: smooth pursuit + neck torsion
  - Saccades
  - Gaze stability

## Neck pain: progressing treatment

- Psychological impairment
- Sensorimotor impairment
- Muscle performance
- Concussion management



REMINDERS  
IRRITABLE  
DREAMS  
STRONG PICTURES  
JUMPY  
FLASHBACKS  
INTRUSIVE FEELINGS  
AVOIDANCE

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IES

Name:

Date:

| On <u>04/16</u> you experienced <u>bike accident</u> .<br>(date) (life event)   |   | Frequency                           |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| below is a list of comments made by people after stressful life events. please check each item indicating how frequently these comments were true for you during the past 7 days or other agreed time period. if they did not occur during that time, please mark the "not at all" column |   | not at all<br>0                     | rarely<br>1                         | sometimes<br>3                      | often<br>5                          |
| 1   | I thought about it when I didn't mean to  |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2   | I avoided letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| 3   | I tried to remove it from memory  |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| 4   | I had trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, because of pictures or thoughts about it that came into my mind |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| 5   | I had waves of strong feelings about it   |                                     |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6   | I had dreams about it   |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| 7   | I stayed away from reminders of it  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| 8   | I felt as if it hadn't happened or it wasn't real   |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |
| 9   | I tried not to talk about it  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |                                     |
| 10  | Pictures about it popped into my mind   |                                     |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11  | Other things kept making me think about it  |                                     |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12  | I was aware that I still had a lot of feelings about it, but I didn't deal with them                            |                                     |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 13  | I tried not to think about it   |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |
| 14  | Any reminder brought back feelings about it   |                                     |                                     |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 15  | My feelings about it were kind of numb  |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                     |                                     |

Total score =  
(>25)

2 4 9 30  
41

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CBT decreases post traumatic stress symptoms & pain related disability

I thought about it when I didn't mean to

I avoided letting myself get upset when I thought about it or was reminded of it

I tried to remove it from memory

I had trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, because of pictures or thoughts about it that came into my mind

I had waves of strong feelings about it

I had dreams about it

I stayed away from reminders of it

Rx recommendations: refer on if IES (shown here) > 25.  
Do NOT screen prior to 6/52  
Scores < 26 offer stress management: relaxation / exercise

Horowitz et al 1979  
Dunne et al 2012

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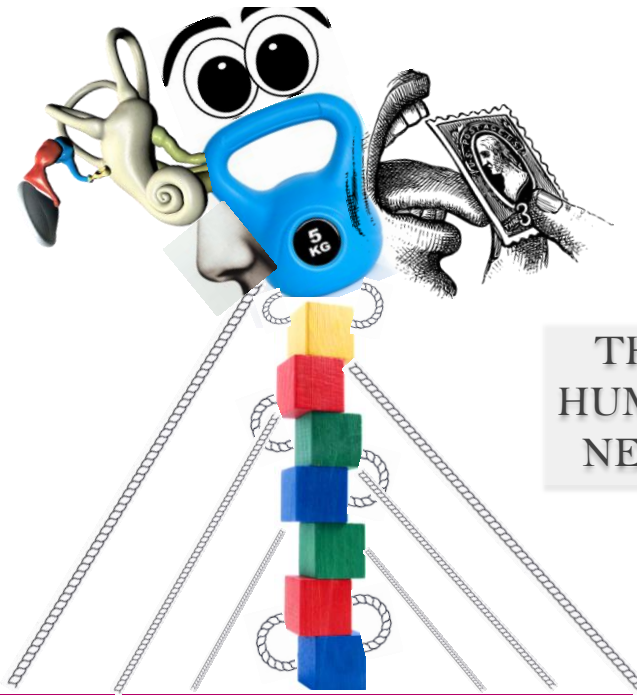
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Sensorimotor  
rehabilitation



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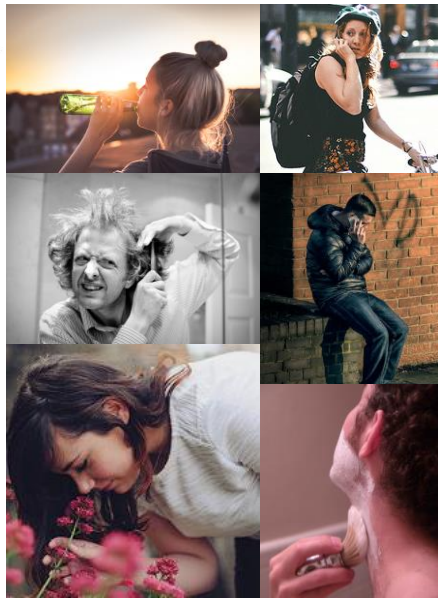
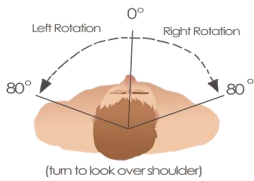


# THE HUMAN NECK

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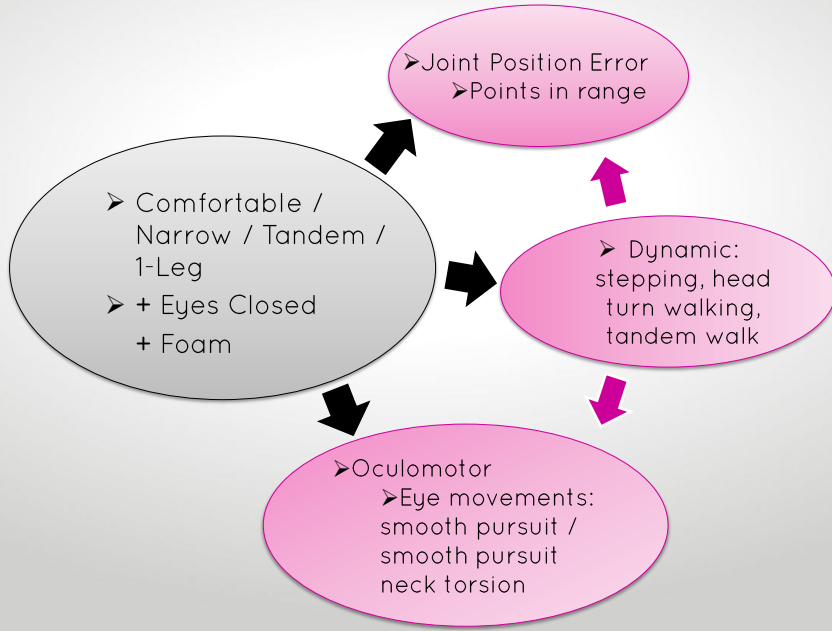
Have we disengaged rehabilitation from day to day function?



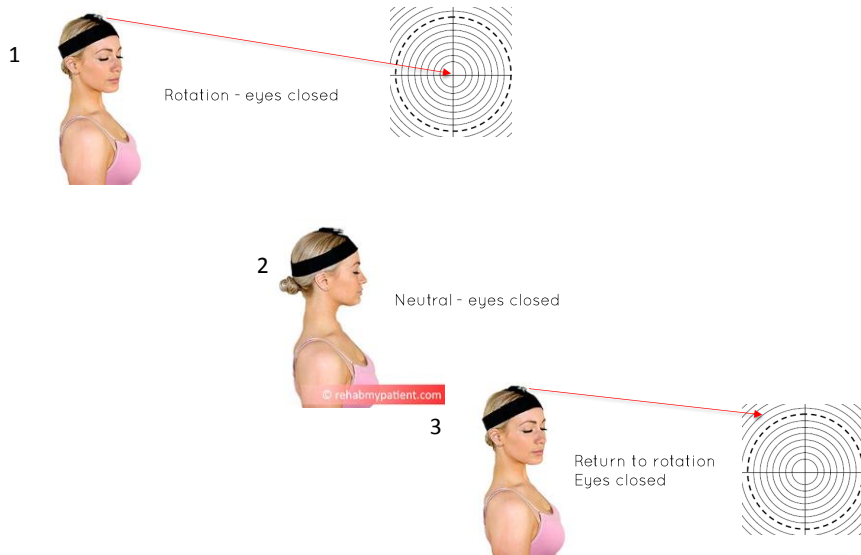
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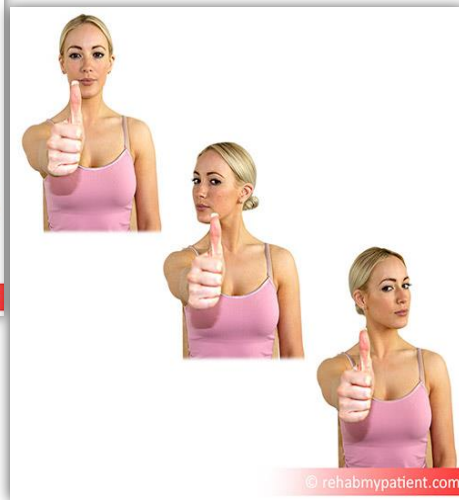
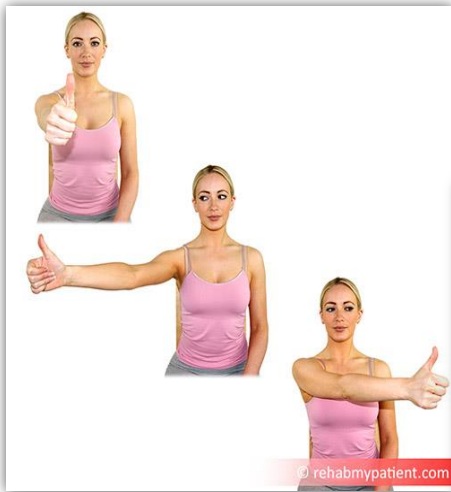
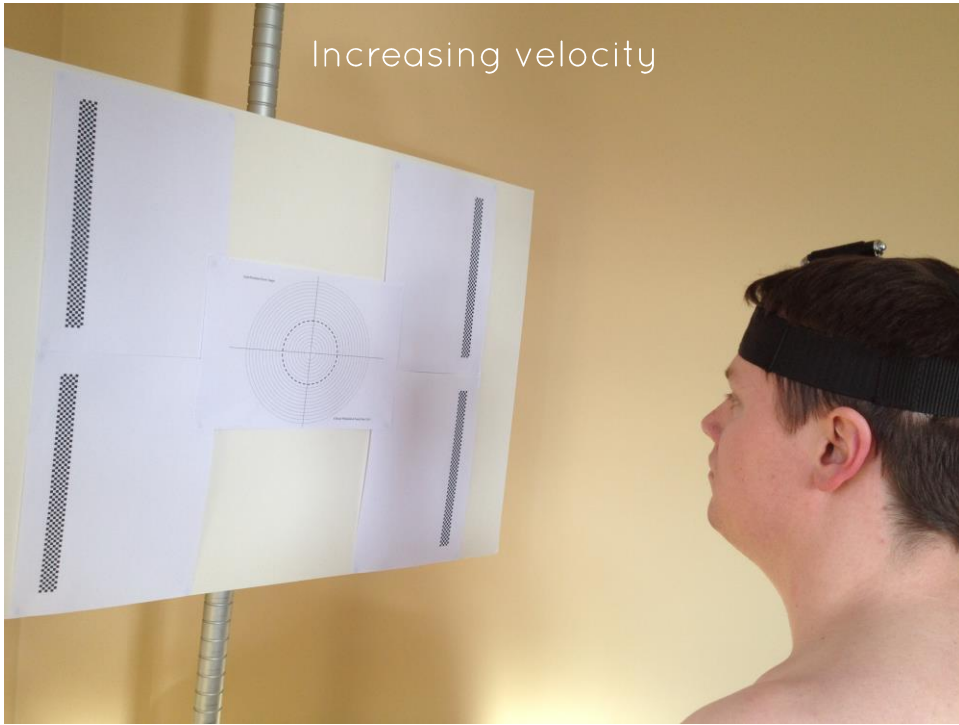
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# Sensorimotor control rehabilitation

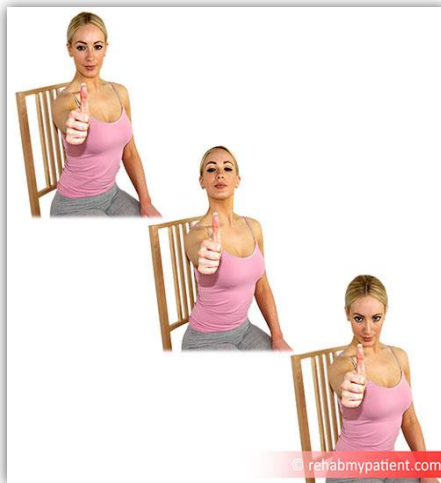


## Sensorimotor control: points in range









## Sensorimotor control rehabilitation

“Work on what turns on the dizziness”

### – Progression

- **Target:** dot – word – business card
- **Position:** sit – stand – tandem stand – walking – stepping
- **Speed:** slow – medium – fast
- **Range:** small – medium – large
- **Neck Torsion:** neutral – 30- 45 degs
- **Vision:** Unrestricted – Restricted Peripheral
- **Duration:** once / twice day

## Late sensorimotor rehabilitation



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McCaskey *et al.* *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders* 2014, **15**:382  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2474/15/382>

 **BMC**  
Musculoskeletal Disorders

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**

### Effects of proprioceptive exercises on pain and function in chronic neck- and low back pain rehabilitation: a systematic literature review

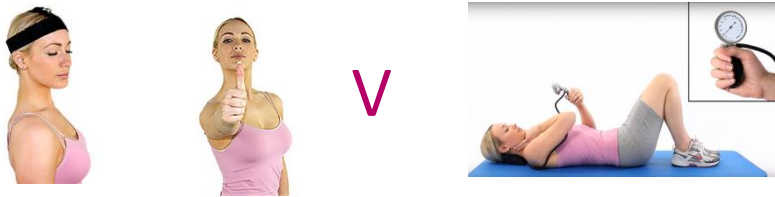
Michael A McCaskey<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Corina Schuster-Amft<sup>1,5</sup>, Brigitte Wirth<sup>2</sup>, Zorica Suica<sup>1</sup> and Eling D de Bruin<sup>2,3,4</sup>

The collected data from 18 studies after an extensive search in all relevant databases suggest that no conclusive evidence exists to support the implementation of PrT interventions in back- or neck-pain rehabilitation. On the other hand, most interventions with PrT elements did report some reduction in pain and improvement of functional status,

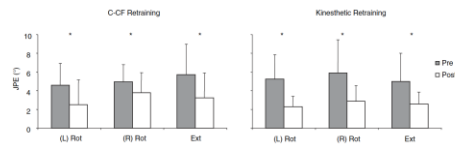
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## Proprioceptive & oculomotor control training reduces neck pain and disability



- Chronic neck pain n=64 female
- NDI 40%
- Group 1: Joint position / oculomotor exs 6/52
- Group 2 :Craniocervical flexion (CCF) 6/52
- Both reduced pain
  - Proprioception -16.8%NDI
  - CCF -13.8 %NDI
- Both improved proprioception



(Jull et al 2007)

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## Balance training improves neck pain

Journal of Motor Behavior, Vol. 45, No. 3, 2013  
Copyright © Taylor & Francis Group, LLC

### RESEARCH ARTICLE

### The Effect of Balance Training on Cervical Sensorimotor Function and Neck Pain

Konstantin Beinert<sup>1,2</sup>, Wolfgang Taube<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Fribourg, Department of Medicine, Movement and Sports Science, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>Institute for Applied Science of the Human Movement System, Neustadt a.d. Weinstraße, Germany.



- N=34, subclinical neck pain v control group
- Trained 5/52, 3 x week
- Outcome measures: pain (NPRS) and proprioception (JPE)
- Neck pain decreased pre 3.65 to post 1.97
- Proprioception improved

Beinert & Taube 2013

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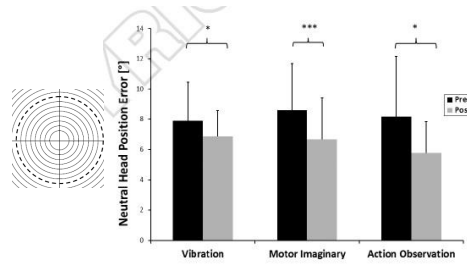
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## Mental rehearsal improves proprioception

EUR J PHYS REHABIL MED 2015;51:825-32

### Cervical joint position sense in neck pain. Immediate effects of muscle vibration *versus* mental training interventions: a RCT

K. BEINERT <sup>1, 2</sup>, S. PREISS <sup>2</sup>, M. HUBER <sup>2</sup>, W. TAUBE <sup>1</sup>



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Muscle performance  
rehabilitation



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Are you aggressive enough with your neck pain rehabilitation?

**50% of neck pain recurs!**

**10% is severe & disabling neck pain**

Carroll et al 2009

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## Neck pain: muscle performance summary

Delayed activation to postural perturbation  
Reduced velocity of motion

Reduced activity in deep neck flexors & extensors

Neck muscle weakness  
Impaired microcirculation  
Fibre-type transformation

Increased activity in superficial flexors and extensors  
Increased rigidity & stiffening in balance tasks



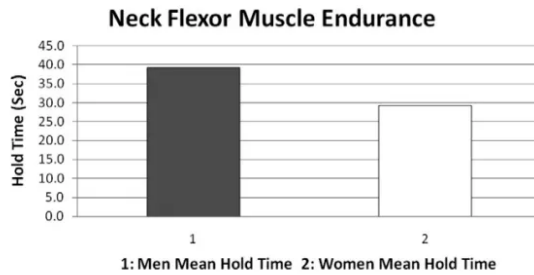


## Stability I: flexor endurance test 'Straight leg raise' of the neck

- Lift head 2cm (measured from back of the head to the plinth)
- Time until the chin begins to 'thrust' is measured in seconds
- Chin 'thrust' is determined in two ways: by light finger pressure over the point of the subject's chin, and by observation.



Inter & intra-rater reliability good > 0.80



Domenech et al. 2011  
Olson et al 2006

## Stability I: endurance tests to exhaustion



Dorsal normals

2Kg women = 8.5 minutes  
4kg men = 7 minutes

Ventral normals  
Women = 30 seconds  
Men = 2.5 minutes



Inter & intra-rater reliability good > 0.80

Peolsson et al 2007

## Stability II: deep neck flexors



- Deep Neck Flexors (DNF)
- Pressure biofeedback 5-stage craniocervical flexion
  - Starting pressure 20mmHg
  - Target 22 - 24 - 26 - 28 - 30mmHg
  - Hold each stage for 10 seconds



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## Stability III: deep neck extensors



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## Stability IV: side flexors



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## Neck muscle performance I

Head lifts



Consider speed / Diaphragmatic breathing / 3 sets to fatigue

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## Neck muscle performance II

Head lifts + resistance



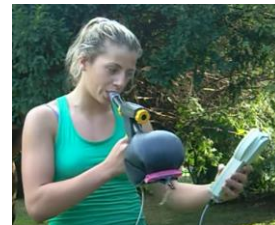
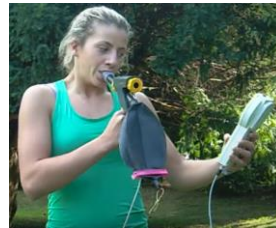
Consider speed / Diaphragmatic breathing / 3 sets to fatigue

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## Respiratory muscle endurance training (RMET) reduces persistent neck pain

- N=15, NDI 22% Pain 4.6 on VAS
- Trained with SpiroTiger 30 mins x 5 days / week for 4 weeks
- Respiratory measures, flexor endurance & chest expansion increased
- Significantly improved pain (-2.4), disability (-6%NDI) & fear avoidance
- Effects due to decreased hyperventilation & hypercapnia



Wirth et al 2016

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**Group-based multimodal exercises integrated with cognitive-behavioural therapy improve disability, pain and quality of life of subjects with chronic neck pain: A randomized controlled trial with one-year follow-up**

Marco Monticone<sup>1,2</sup>, Emilia Ambrosini<sup>2,3</sup>, Barbara Rocca<sup>2</sup>,  
 Daniele Cazzaniga<sup>2</sup>, Valentina Liquori<sup>2</sup>, Alessandra Pedrocchi<sup>3</sup>  
 and Howard Vernon<sup>4</sup>

N=170

One 60 mins multimodal exercise – strengthening / speed / function  
 60 mins group CBT / week for ten weeks

∨

General exercise group  
 One 60 mins session / week

“Highly significant improvement in pain, disability,  
 fear of movement and catastrophisation”

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Falla et al 2006: pain & disability improves with both 'strengthening' & 'stability'



∨



- Chronic neck pain n=58 female
- NDI 20%
- Endurance head lift vs CCF 6/52
- Both decreased pain
  - Endurance -2.8 NDI
  - CCF -3.5 NDI
- Endurance reduced fatigue

(Falla et al 2006)

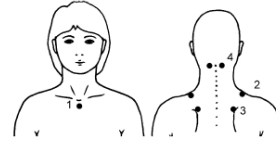
[www.chrisworsfold.com](http://www.chrisworsfold.com)

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## Ylinen et al 2005: pain & disability improves 70% long term with strengthening

- 12 month muscle strengthening vs. endurance vs. controls (n=180, female) (Ylinen et al 2005)
- Decreased pain VAS by 60-70% both active groups & 28% control group
- Significant increase in PPT both active groups (p<0.001, n=180)



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**Ylinen et al (2005) Protocol:** 3x week: 3 sets 20 reps. Upper limb: shrugs, presses, curls, bent over-rows, flies. Lower limb: squats, sit-ups and back extension. Neck & shoulder stretches 20mins. Aerobic exercise 30 mins. Exercise diary.



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# The Neck Gym Clinician Guide

## 9 - station exercise protocol

### Exercise 5b - head lift + weight



**Neck flexor strengthening weight 1**

Place an ankle cuff weight around your head. Lie on your back, and lift your head off the floor/bed while locking your chin in slightly. You should feel the muscles at the front and side of your neck contracting. Use a pillow if that feels more comfortable.

WEEK 3-4: 0.5 Kg weight  
 WEEK 5 onwards: 1 Kg weight

Sets: 3 | Repetitions: 12

Do we need to address both stability & strength?

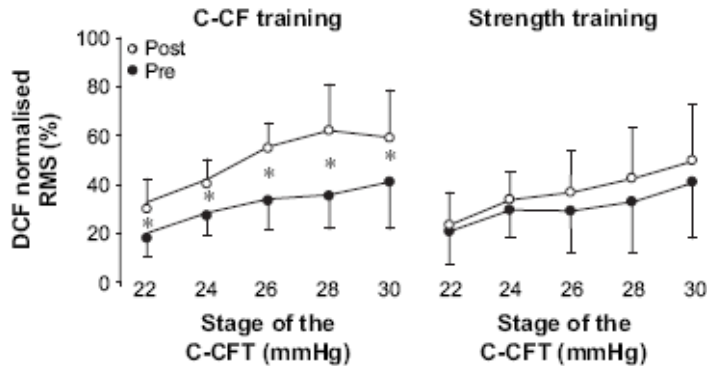


Fig. 1. Normalised RMS values (mean and standard deviation) for the DCF muscles for each stage of the CCFT. Data are presented for the C-CF retraining group and strength-training group both pre and post intervention. \*indicates significant difference between pre and post intervention data ( $P < 0.05$ ).

(Jull et al 2009)

## Strength training attenuates superficial muscle over activity

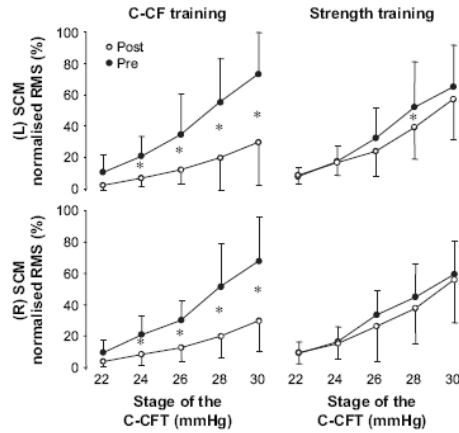


Fig. 2. Normalised RMS values (mean and standard deviation) for the left and right SCM muscles for each stage of the CCFT. Data are presented for the C-CF training group and strength-training group both pre and post intervention. \*Indicates significant difference between pre and post intervention data ( $P < 0.05$ ).

(Jull et al 2009)

## MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE CERVICAL MUSCLES OF WOMEN WITH CHRONIC WHIPLASH CAN BE MODIFIED WITH EXERCISE—A PILOT STUDY

SHAUN O'LEARY, PT, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> GWENDOLEN JULL, PT, PhD,<sup>1</sup> LUKE VAN WYK, PT,<sup>1</sup> ASHLEY PEDLER, PT, PhD,<sup>3</sup> and JAMES ELLIOTT, PT, PhD<sup>4,5</sup> *Muscle Nerve* 52: 772–779, 2015

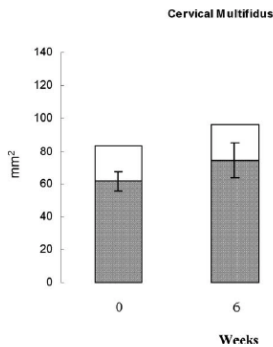


FIGURE 1. Group mean total cross-sectional area (CSA) (entire column) and relative muscle CSA (mCSA) (shaded portion of column) of the cervical multifidus muscle at 0, 6, and 10 weeks of exercise (in  $\text{mm}^2$ ). The 95% confidence interval error bars are shown for the mCSA. \*Significant difference in CSA vs. baseline. †Significant difference in mCSA vs. baseline.

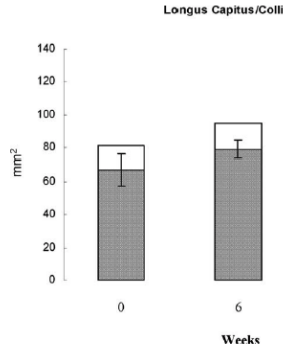
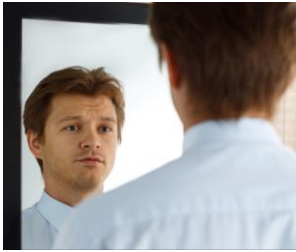


FIGURE 2. Group mean total cross-sectional area (CSA) (entire column) and relative muscle CSA (mCSA) (shaded portion of column) of the longus capitis/colli muscle at 0, 6, and 10 weeks of exercise (in  $\text{mm}^2$ ). The 95% confidence interval error bars are shown for the mCSA. \*Significant difference in CSA vs. baseline. †Significant difference in mCSA vs. baseline.

## Functional rehabilitation of the neck



'Mirror': head & gaze stability + body rotation



'Pointing up': cervical extension + rotation



'Joy': cervical extension



'Reaching': cervical extension



'Reverse the car': cervical rotation



'Cross the road': walk + step + cervical rotation

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## Functional rehabilitation of the neck: rotation

**MIRROR:**  
Looking in mirror  
Keep head and eyes still  
Turn body left and right

**WALK PAST:**  
Fix eyes on point on wall  
to left or right  
Walk past the point  
Turn around & repeat

**CROSS THE ROAD:**  
Look right and left whilst  
walking forwards

**WHAT'S UNDER THERE?**  
All fours kneeling  
Look under chair / settee  
Touch cheek against floor



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## Functional rehabilitation of the neck: extension

**LOOK UP &  
POINT:**  
At object in room

**GOAL!**  
Look up and elevate both  
shoulders - smile and cheer!

**REACHING AS FAR AS ABLE:**  
Reach forward to floor  
Reach forward at shoulder height  
Reach up above head



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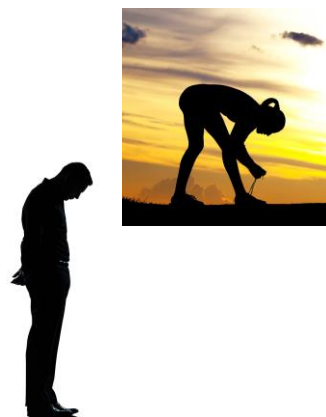
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## Functional rehabilitation of the neck: flexion

**LOOK DOWN:**  
At feet  
Tie shoelace - on step / floor

**LOOKING DOWN:**  
At object (e.g. coin) on floor,  
walk over and past  
Repeat passing slightly left &  
right

**DOWN STEPS**  
Watch feet moving

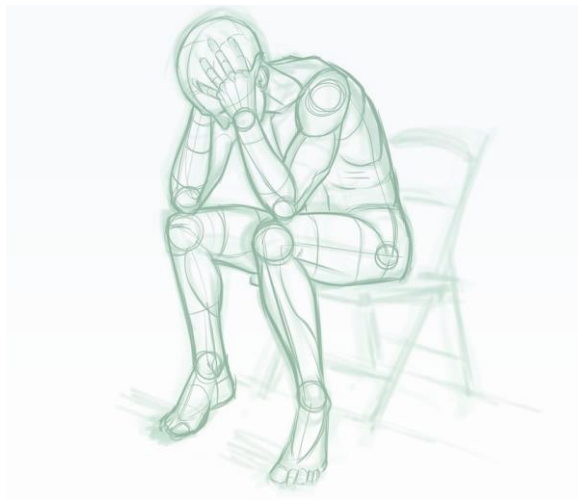


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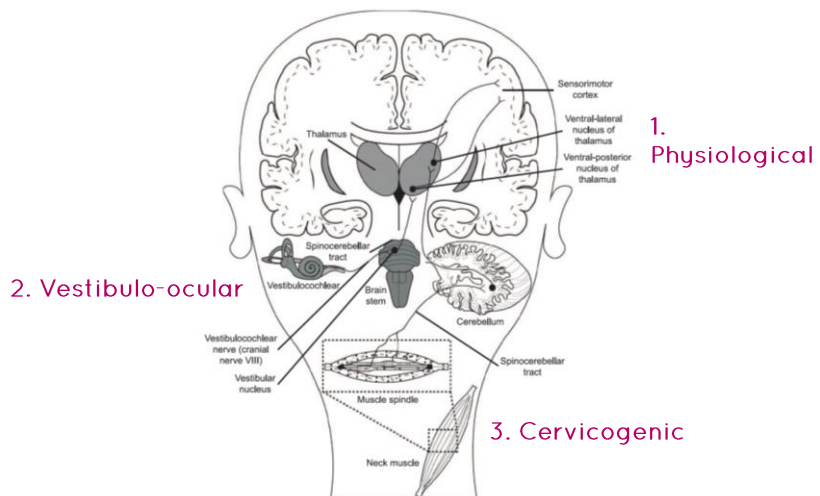
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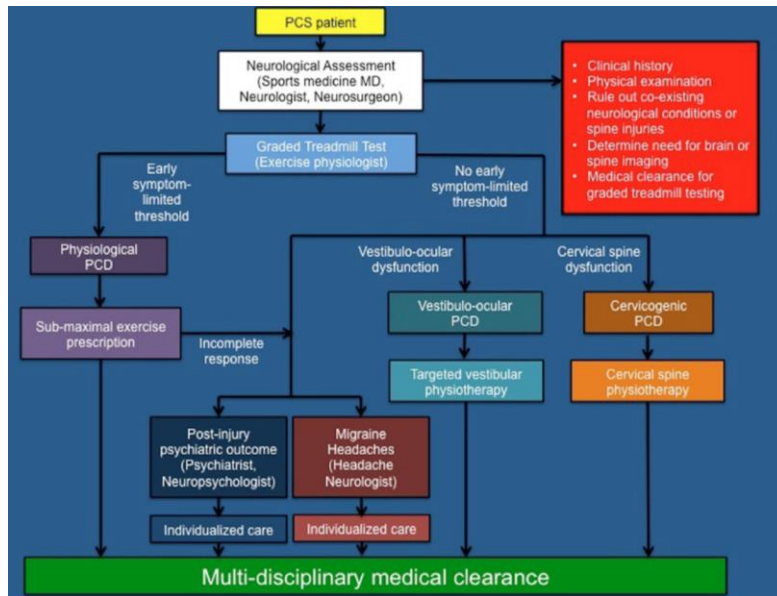
# Concussion management



# Concussion management



Cheever et al Journal of Athletic Training 2016;51(12):1037-1044



Ellis MJ, Leddy J and Willer B (2016) Multi-Disciplinary Management of Athletes with Post-Concussion Syndrome: An Evolving Pathophysiological Approach. *Front. Neurol.* 7:136.

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TABLE 1 | Summary of proposed pathophysiology, predominant symptoms, physical examination findings, graded treadmill testing results, treatment recommendations, important considerations and multi-disciplinary consultations for post-concussion disorders.

|   | Physiological PCD  | Vestibulo-ocular PCD  | Cervicogenic PCD   |
|---|--|---|--|
| Proposed pathophysiology                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persistent alterations in neuronal depolarization, cellular metabolism, and cerebrovascular physiology</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolated dysfunction of central and peripheral components of the vestibulo-ocular neurological sub-system</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolated mechanosceptive, nociceptive, and proprioceptive dysfunction within the cervical spine neurological sub-system</li> </ul>  |
| Predominant symptoms                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild to moderate, global, pounding headache at rest</li> <li>Dizziness, nausea, fatigue, drowsiness, light and sound sensitivity, irritability</li> <li>Symptoms elicited or exacerbated by reproducible levels of physical (and sometimes) cognitive activity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild to moderate headache and eye strain that is typically absent at rest but elicited or exacerbated by prolonged periods of reading, focusing, or time in complex visuospatial environments</li> <li>Intermittent blurred vision, diplopia, dizziness, foginess, motion sensitivity, difficulty focusing or concentrating</li> <li>Intermittent vertigo during certain head positions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild to moderate, dull, occipital headache that is elicited or exacerbated by activities that require prolonged neck stabilization or movement</li> <li>Neck pain, stiffness, decreased range of motion, dizziness, foginess, and postural imbalance</li> </ul> |
| Physical examination findings             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal physical examination</li> <li>Elevated resting heart rate</li> <li>Orthostatic changes in pulse and/or blood pressure accompanied by symptoms</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impaired convergence, accommodation, smooth pursuits, saccades, and vestibulo-ocular reflex</li> <li>Impaired balance and postural stability testing</li> <li>Positive Dix-Hallpike Maneuver (BPPV)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreased cervical lordosis and range of motion</li> <li>Sub-occipital and paraspinal neck tenderness</li> <li>Impaired cervical spine proprioception</li> <li>Positive cervical dizziness testing</li> </ul>   |
| Graded treadmill testing results          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early symptom-limited threshold</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients typically do not experience an early symptom-limited threshold</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients typically do not experience an early symptom-limited threshold</li> </ul>  |
| Treatment                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-maximal aerobic exercise prescription</li> <li>Targeted treatment of co-existing vestibulo-ocular dysfunction or cervical spine soft tissue injury</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted vestibular and vision therapy</li> <li>Otolith repositioning (BPPV)</li> <li>Sub-maximal aerobic exercise program to maintain aerobic fitness</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cervical spine manual therapy and proprioception re-training</li> <li>Gaze and postural stabilization exercises</li> <li>Sub-maximal aerobic exercise program to maintain aerobic fitness</li> </ul>  |
| Important considerations                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients who do not achieve complete recovery with sub-maximal exercise prescription should be screened for migraine headaches and post-injury psychiatric outcomes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must rule out co-existing neurological and neuro-ophthalmological conditions prior to graded aerobic treadmill testing and physiotherapy</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must rule out cervical spine structural injury or mechanical instability prior to graded aerobic treadmill testing and physiotherapy</li> </ul>   |
| Consulting multi-disciplinary specialists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise physiologist or kinesiologist</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vestibular physiotherapist</li> <li>Neuro-ophthalmologist</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cervical spine physiotherapist</li> </ul>   |

PCD, post-concussion disorder; BPPV, benign paroxysmal positional vertigo [modified with permission from original source Ellis et al. (3), Taylor & Francis].

Ellis MJ, Leddy J and Willer B (2016) Multi-Disciplinary Management of Athletes with Post-Concussion Syndrome: An Evolving Pathophysiological Approach. *Front. Neurol.* 7:136.

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## Dizziness associated with poor prognosis in sport related concussion

Vestibular and oculomotor impairment and symptoms may be associated with worse outcomes

- Acute (< 1 week) concussion
- Subacute (1 week - 3 months) concussion
- 30% experience persistent symptoms following concussion

Dizziness at the time of injury = 6-fold increase in recovery time

Schneider KJ, et al. Br J Sports Med 2014;48:1294-1298  
Kontos et al 2017 Journal of Athletic Training 2017;52(3):256-261

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### Review

## Can vestibular rehabilitation exercises help patients with concussion? A systematic review of efficacy, prescription and progression patterns

Murray DA, et al. Br J Sports Med 2017;51:442-451

### What are the findings?

- ▶ Postconcussion vestibular symptoms can cause significant morbidity and lead to extended time away from work, school and/or sport.
- ▶ Vestibular rehabilitation guidelines postconcussion are, to date, consensus based and drawn from comparator vestibular dysfunction studies.
- ▶ This review now suggests that vestibular rehabilitation therapy (VRT) is beneficial in mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI)/concussion with evidence supporting earlier return to sport.

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## Cervicovestibular rehabilitation in sport-related concussion: a randomised controlled trial

### What are the new findings?

- ▶ Individuals with persistent symptoms of dizziness, neck pain and/or headaches following a sport-related concussion were more likely to be medically cleared to return to sport within 8 weeks of initiation of treatment when they were treated with multimodal physiotherapy.
- ▶ A combination of vestibular rehabilitation and cervical spine physiotherapy may facilitate recovery in individuals with persistent dizziness, neck pain and/or headaches following a sport-related concussion.

### How might it impact on clinical practice in the near future?

- ▶ Cervical spine physiotherapy and vestibular rehabilitation may be considered as treatment options for individuals with persistent symptoms of dizziness, neck pain and/or headaches following sport-related concussion.
- ▶ Future research to evaluate the optimal timing of treatment and the effects of covariates such as age, history of concussion and dosage is warranted.

Schneider KJ, et al. Br J Sports Med 2014;48:1294-1298