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Treatment of Exotropia with Gasserian Ganglion Block

O. Tamura and M. Abe

Since Mitsui first reported the Magician's forceps phenomenon occurring in patients with exotropia, the correlation of proprioception of the ocular muscles with strabismus in human eyes has been investigated. Mitsui found that the slave eye (exodeviated eye) assumed the straight position when the trigeminal nerve was blocked by retrobulbar anesthesia of the master eye (dominant eye).

We blocked the master eye's Gasserian ganglion of the trigeminal nerve, the sensory pathway from the proprioceptors, with lidocaine. The degree of exodeviation decreased in about 60% of cases with this therapy. There were some cases who showed alternation of the master and slave eye with Gasserian ganglion block of master eye and then orthophorization of the deviated eye after the blockage of Gasserian ganglion of the other eye.

These indicated the following results:

- 1) The exodeviated eyes can be orthophorized with Gasserian ganglion block of the master eye.
- 2) Alternation of master and slave eye is observed in some cases after this therapy.