

Vestibular Rehab Therapy for Stroke

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Financial Relationship Disclosure(s)

Lauren Hall, MD

- Nothing to disclose





Vestibular Rehabilitation in Stroke Recovery

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PM&R and Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
Stroke Conference, September 2025



BROWNHealth
UNIVERSITY

Financial Disclosures

- No financial disclosures

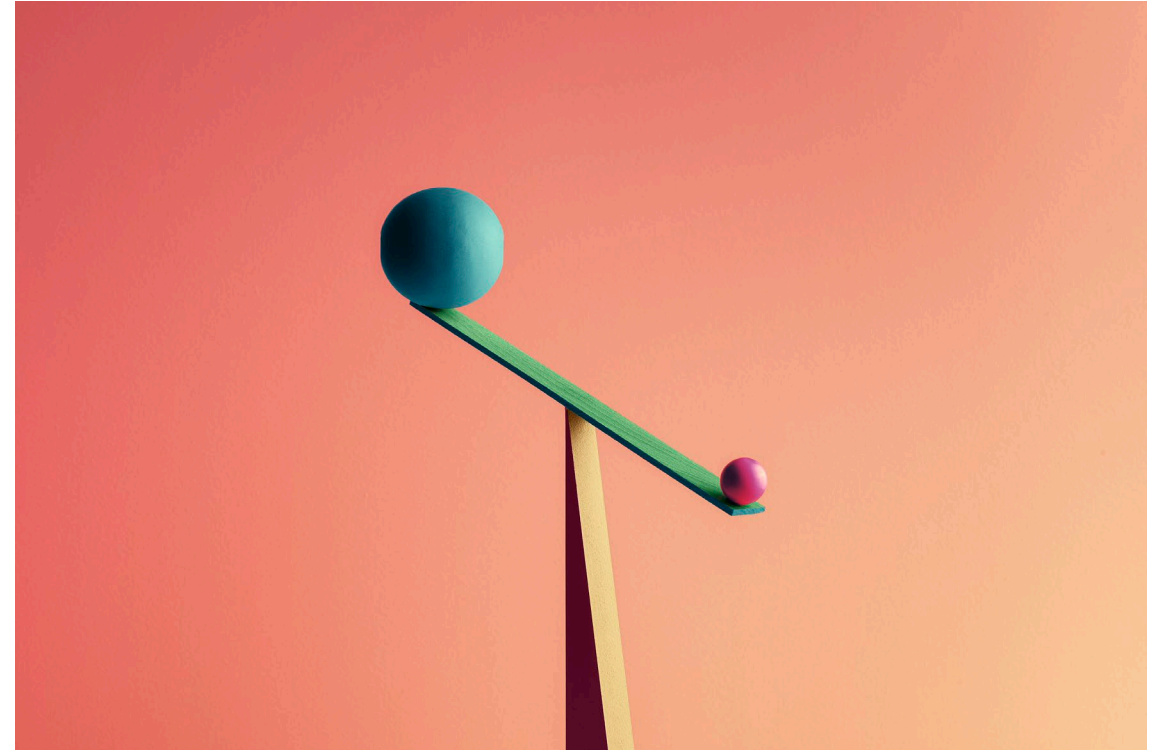
Objectives

- Review the anatomy and physiology of the vestibular system
- Review the clinical signs and symptoms of vestibular dysfunction
- Review the incidence and clinical signs/symptoms of vestibular dysfunction post-stroke
- Understand the general principles of vestibular rehabilitation therapy (VRT)
- Review the current evidence and guidelines supporting VRT use post-stroke
- Explore the mechanisms, protocols, and outcomes of VRT in subacute and chronic stroke populations

Anatomy and Physiology of the Vestibular System

Vestibular System

- Maintains balance, gaze stability, and spatial orientation
- Input from peripheral vestibular organs, visual and somatosensory feedback
- Output to postural control, eye movements, and perception of movement



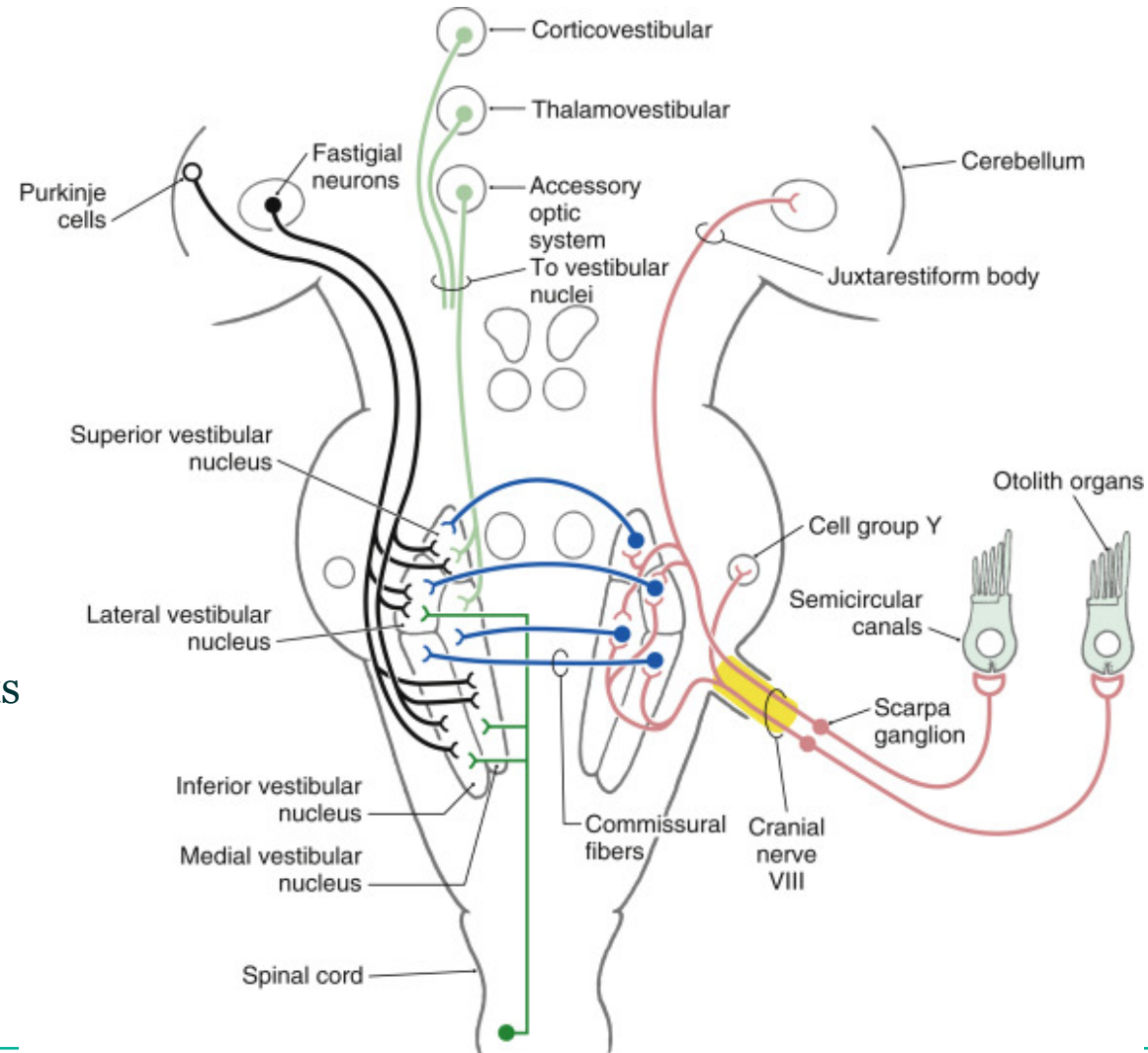
Sensory Inputs to the Vestibular System



Anatomy of the Vestibular System

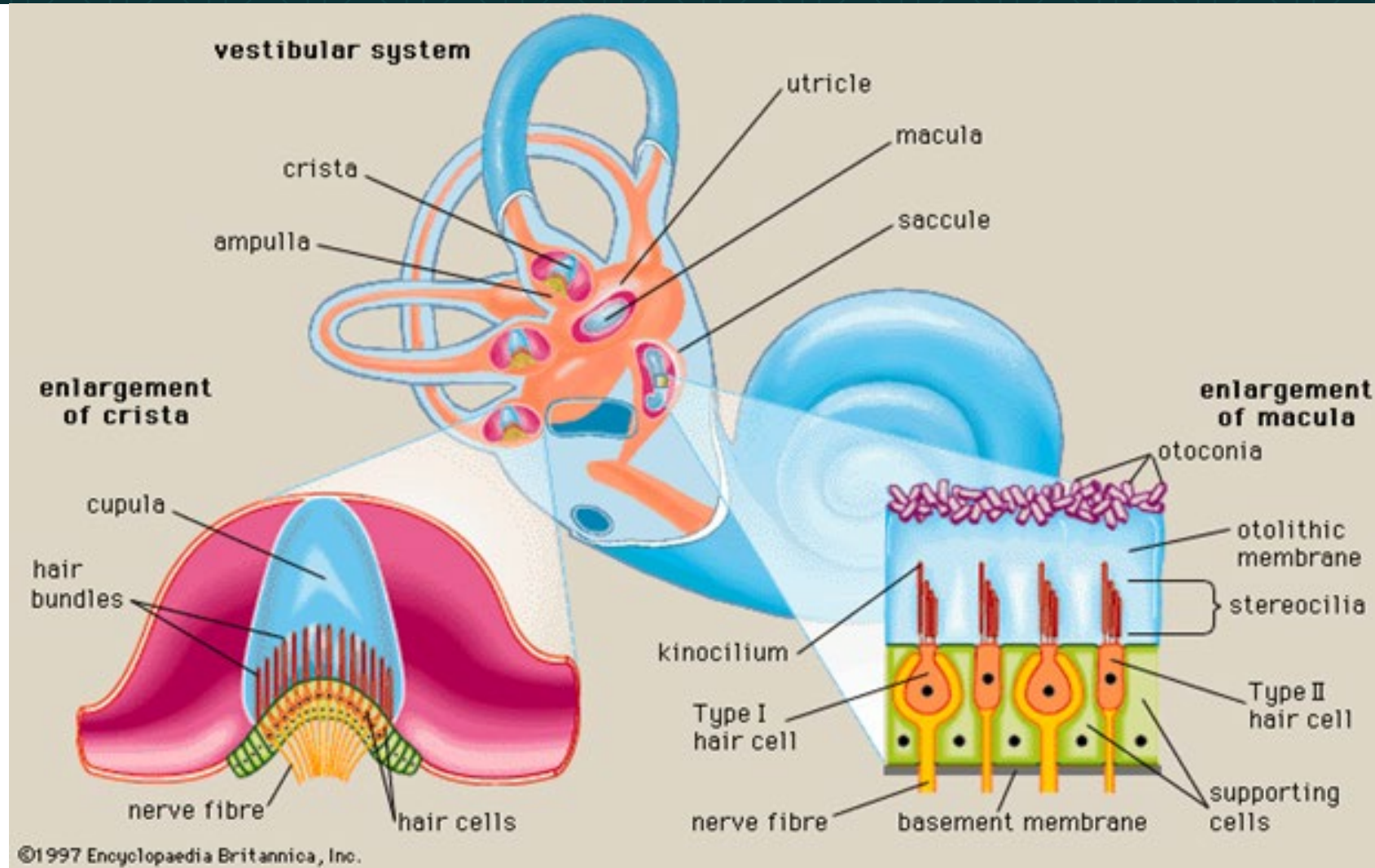
Central Vestibular System

- Brainstem vestibular nuclei
- Cortical and Cerebellar tracts

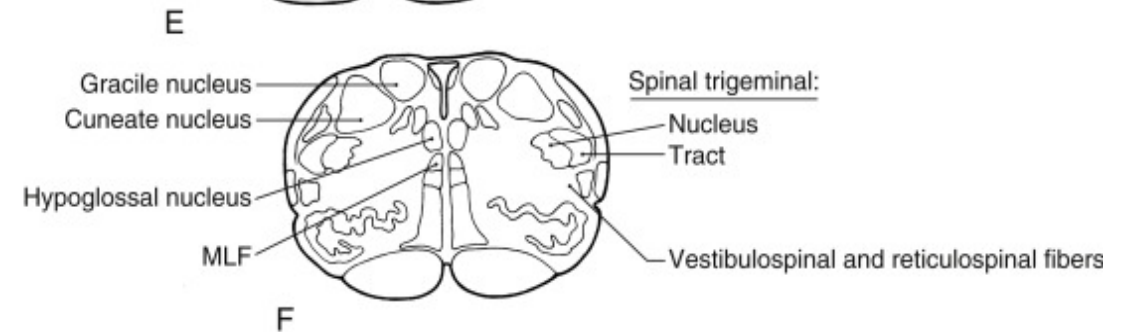
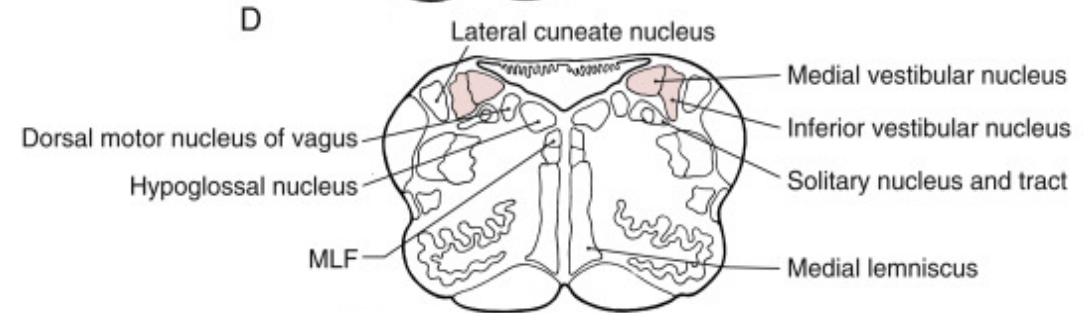
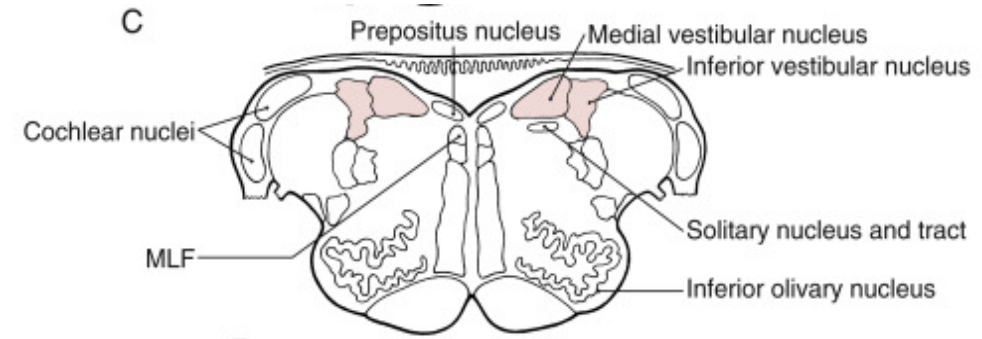
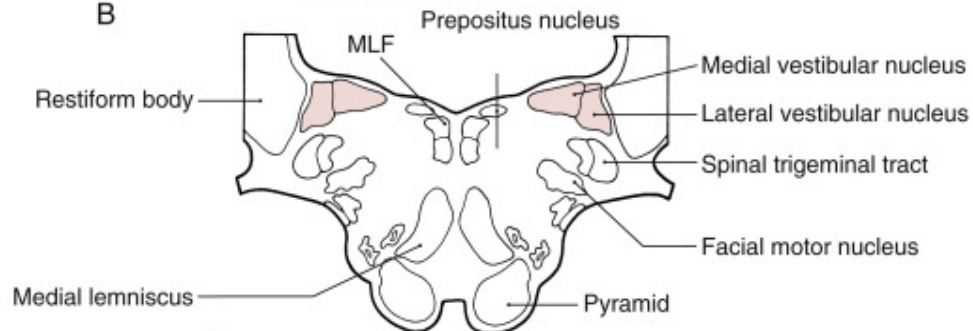
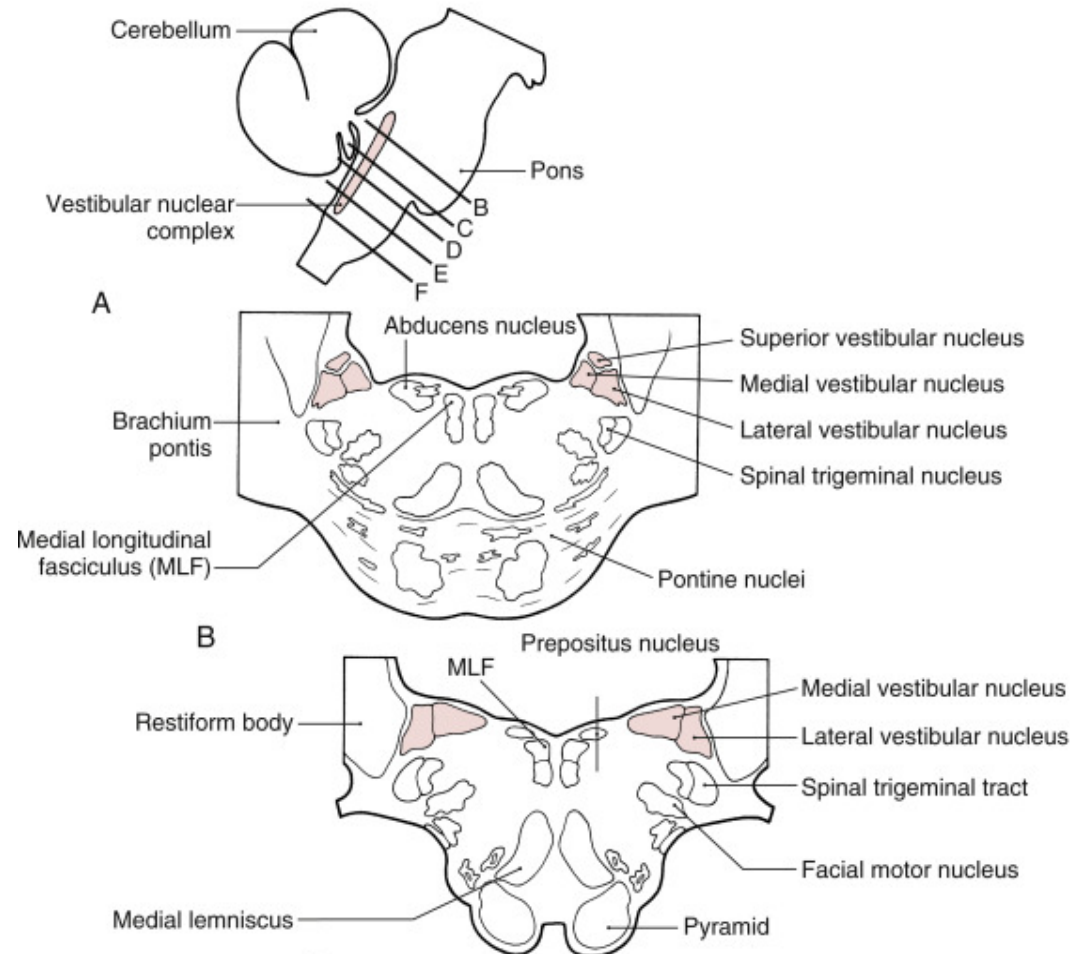


Peripheral Vestibular System

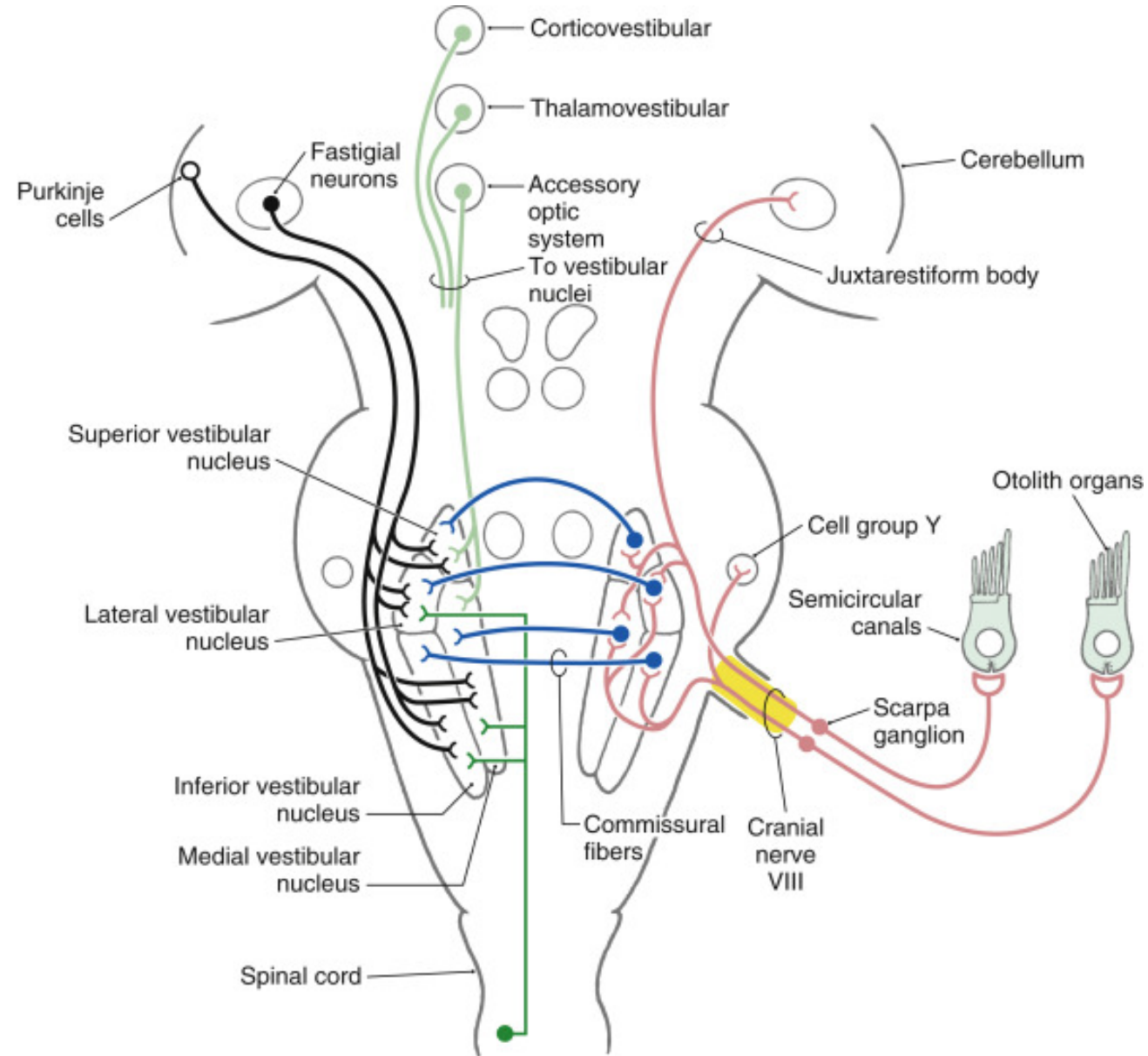
Peripheral Vestibular System



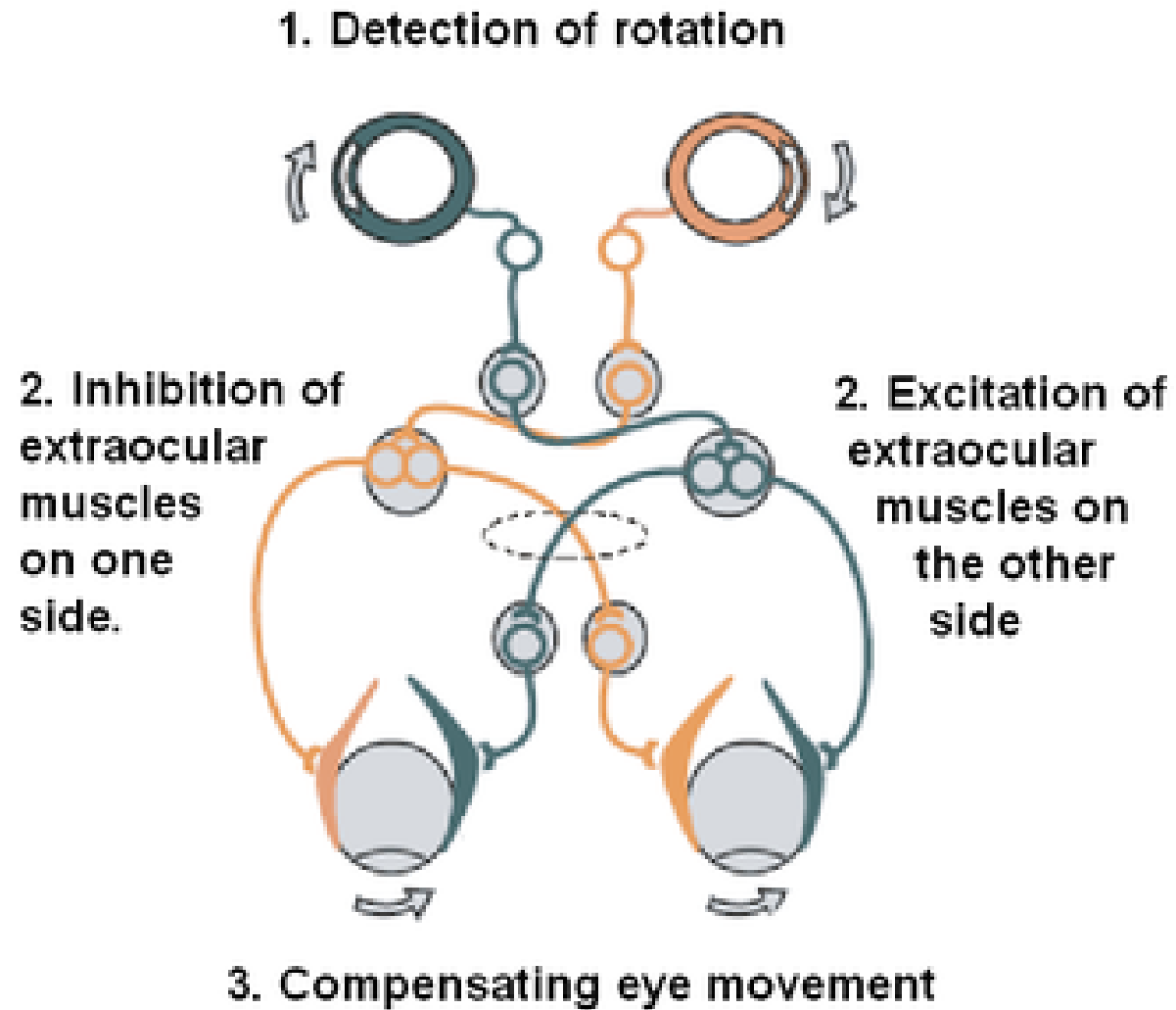
Central Vestibular System—Brainstem Nuclei



Central Vestibular System—Brainstem Nuclei

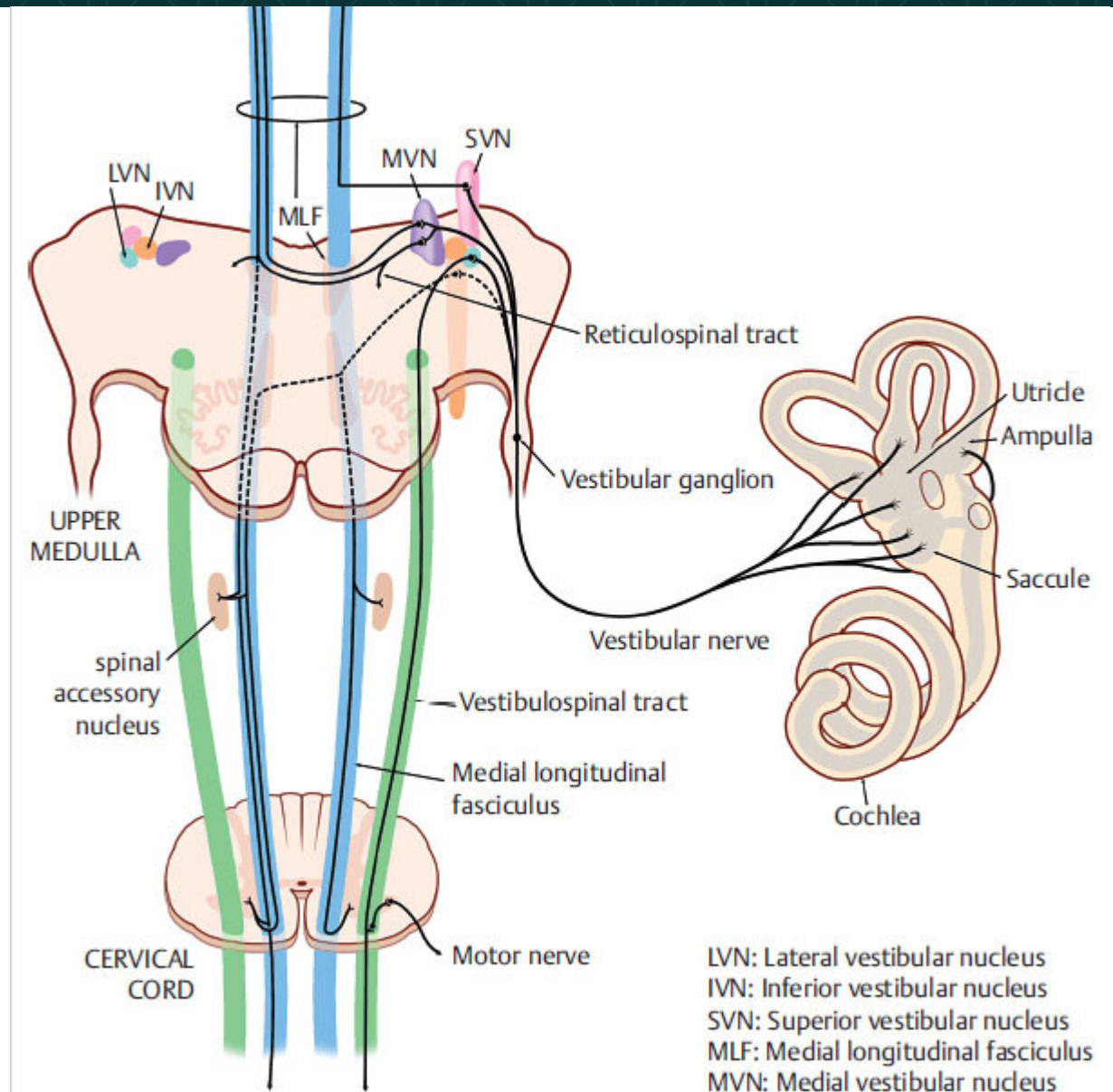


Central Vestibular System—VOR



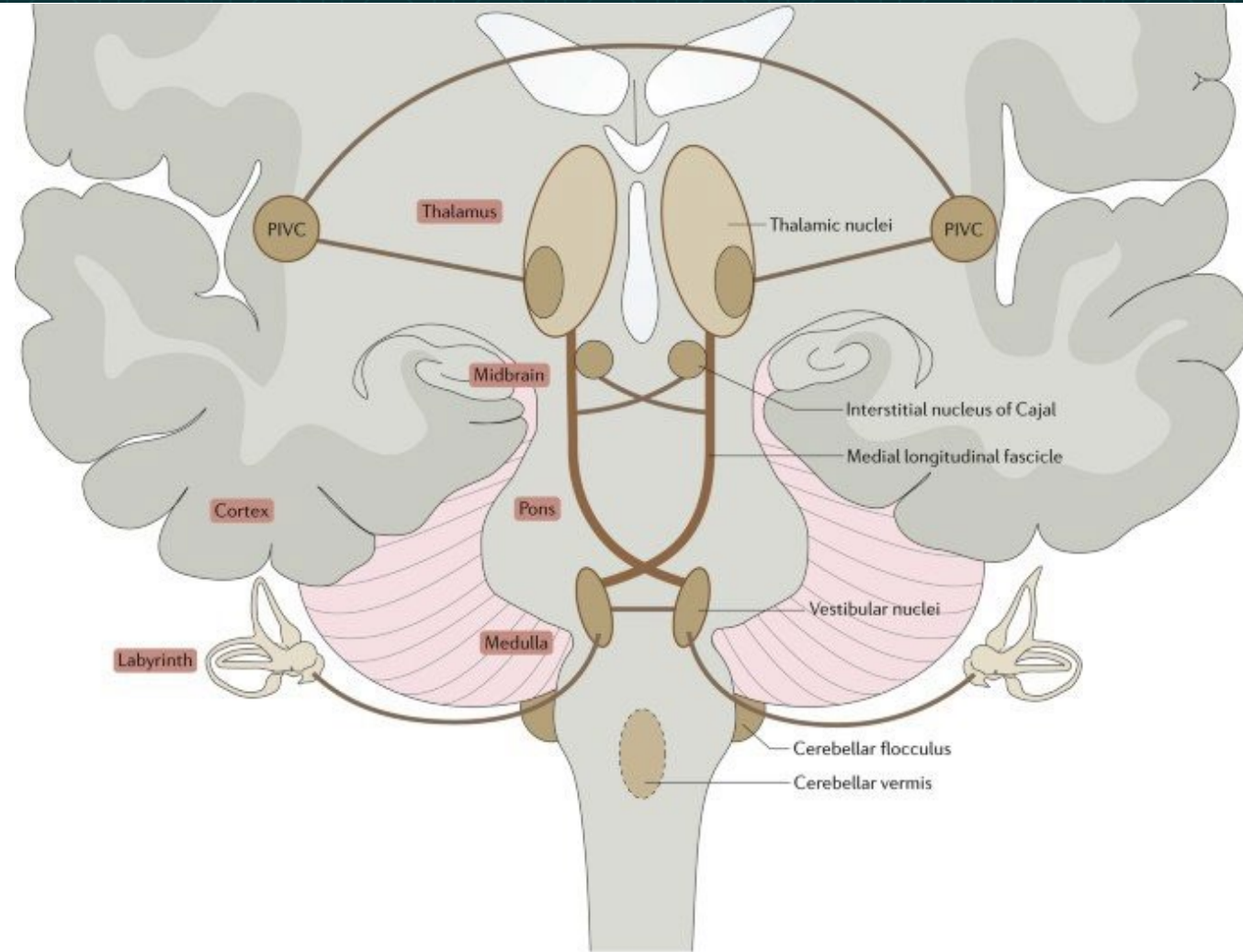
Central Vestibular System

- Vestibulospinal Tract adjusts posture
- Cerebellum fine-tunes motor responses



Cortical and High-Level Processing of the Vestibular System

- Parieto-insular vestibular cortex (PIVC)
- Temporo-parietal junction, hippocampus, somatosensory cortex involvement
- Multisensory integration for spatial awareness, navigation, and motion perception



Disorders of the Vestibular System

Disorders of the Vestibular System

- About 35% of individuals over 40 years old in the US have had a vestibular disorder (69 million Americans)
- 3% of all ED visits have a chief complaint of dizziness or lightheadedness
- Peripheral vestibular disorders account for about 50% of these disorders (BPPV being the most common)

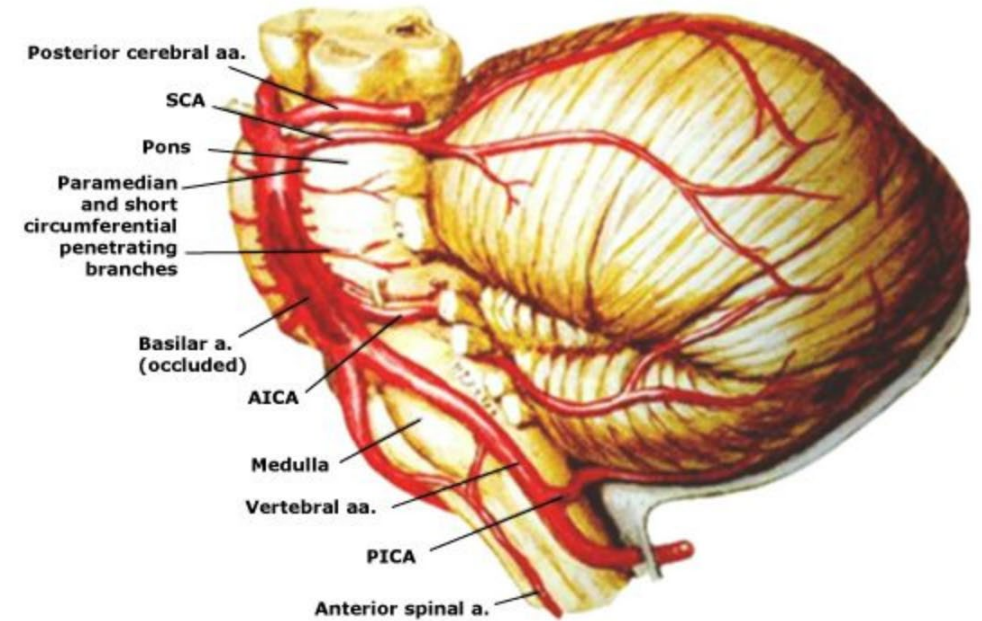
Differentiating Central and Peripheral Vestibular Disorders

	Peripheral Vertigo	Central Vertigo
Head Impulse Test	Abnormal; corrective saccade to midline with rotation of head	Normal; no corrective saccade
Nystagmus	Unidirectional; horizontal	Horizontal & direction-changing; vertical; torsional
Test of Skew	No skew deviation	Skew deviation present

<https://www.maimonidesem.org/blog/hints-exam>

Vestibular System in Stroke

- Strokes may impact vestibular nuclei, brainstem pathways, cerebellar processing, and cortical integration
 - Most significant being posterior circulation strokes
- Presenting symptoms can include dizziness, lightheadedness, poor balance, falls, spatial disorientation



The intracranial vertebral and basilar arteries are depicted with their major cerebellar arterial branches, including PICA (posterior inferior and cerebellar artery), AICA (anterior inferior cerebellar artery), and SCA (superior cerebellar artery).

Reproduced with permission from Caplan, LR. Posterior circulation disease. Clinical findings, diagnosis, and management. Blackwell Science, Boston 1996. Copyright ©1996 Blackwell Science.

Incidence of Vestibular Impairments in Stroke

- In one study, those that presented with acute vestibular syndromes , 25% were attributed to stroke
- In all those with chief complaint of dizziness (acute, chronic, and episodic), 10% were stroke

Principles of Vestibular Rehabilitation

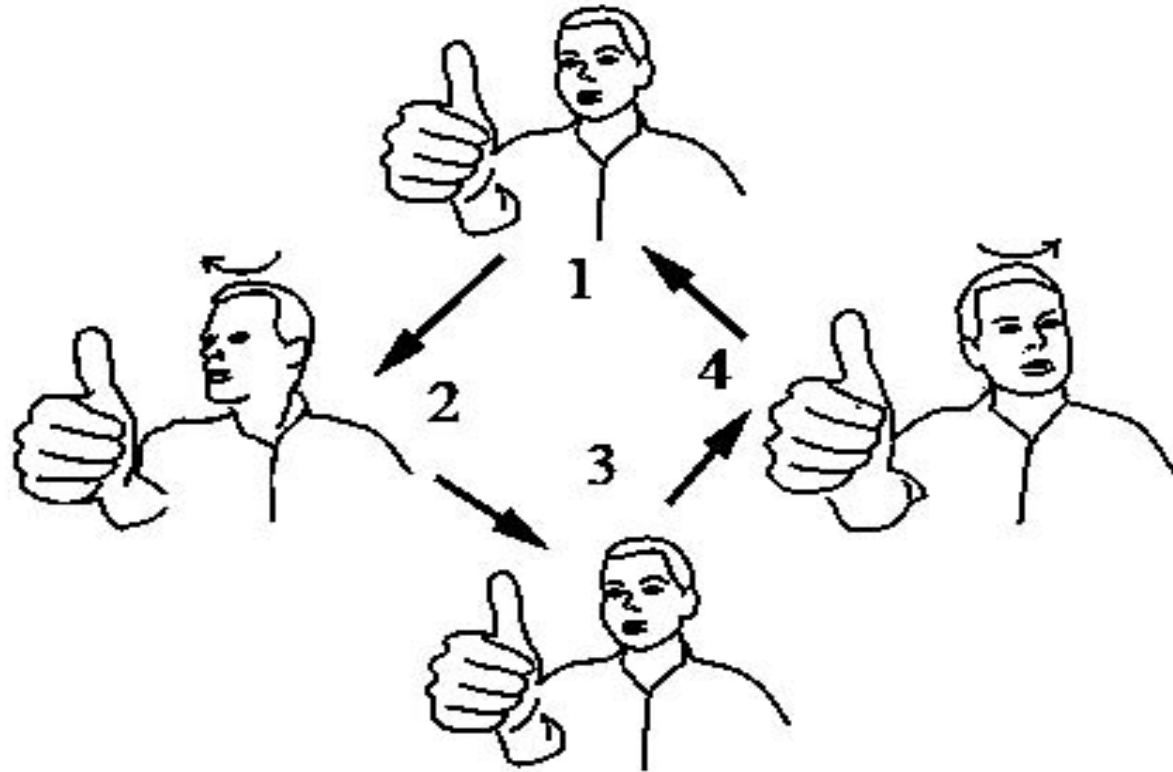
Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy



- Individualized rehabilitation program addressing
 - Gait stability
 - Balance
 - Visual gaze
 - Postural stability
- Targets disorders of the peripheral and central vestibular system
 - More traditionally used in mild to severe traumatic brain injury

Gaze Stabilization Therapy Techniques

Vestibular Ocular Reflex (Single Target)



Gaze Stabilization Therapy Techniques

Vestibular Ocular Reflex (Two Target)



Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy Techniques

- Balance Retraining



Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy Techniques

- Sensory re-weighting
 - Exercises with little to no light/blindfolded
 - Training on uneven surfaces
 - Music therapy/metronome



Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy Techniques

- Dual-task training



Vestibular Rehabilitation Therapy Techniques

- Gait training with obstacle navigation



Vestibular Rehabilitation in Stroke

Functional Deficits targeted by VRT in Stroke

- Vestibular therapy has been shown to have positive effects on multiple different stroke symptoms including
 - Impaired balance
 - Gait dysfunction
 - Fatigue

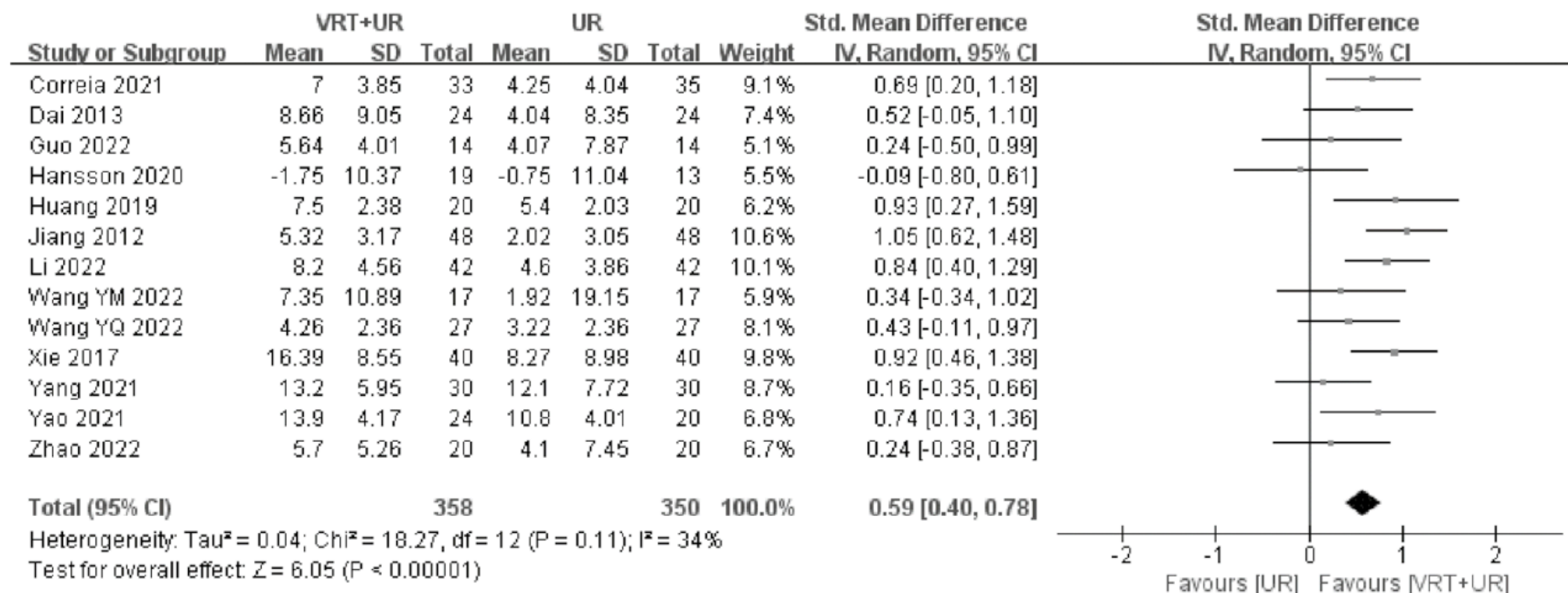


Vestibular Therapy in Stroke

- Systematic Review in 2023 reviewed the effects of vestibular rehabilitation therapy (VRT) vs usual rehabilitation (UR) on both gait and balance after stroke
- 15 RCTs were included which individuals with stroke were evaluated and treated with varying VRT programs
- Assessed gait function and balance via pooled data sets of over 700 participants

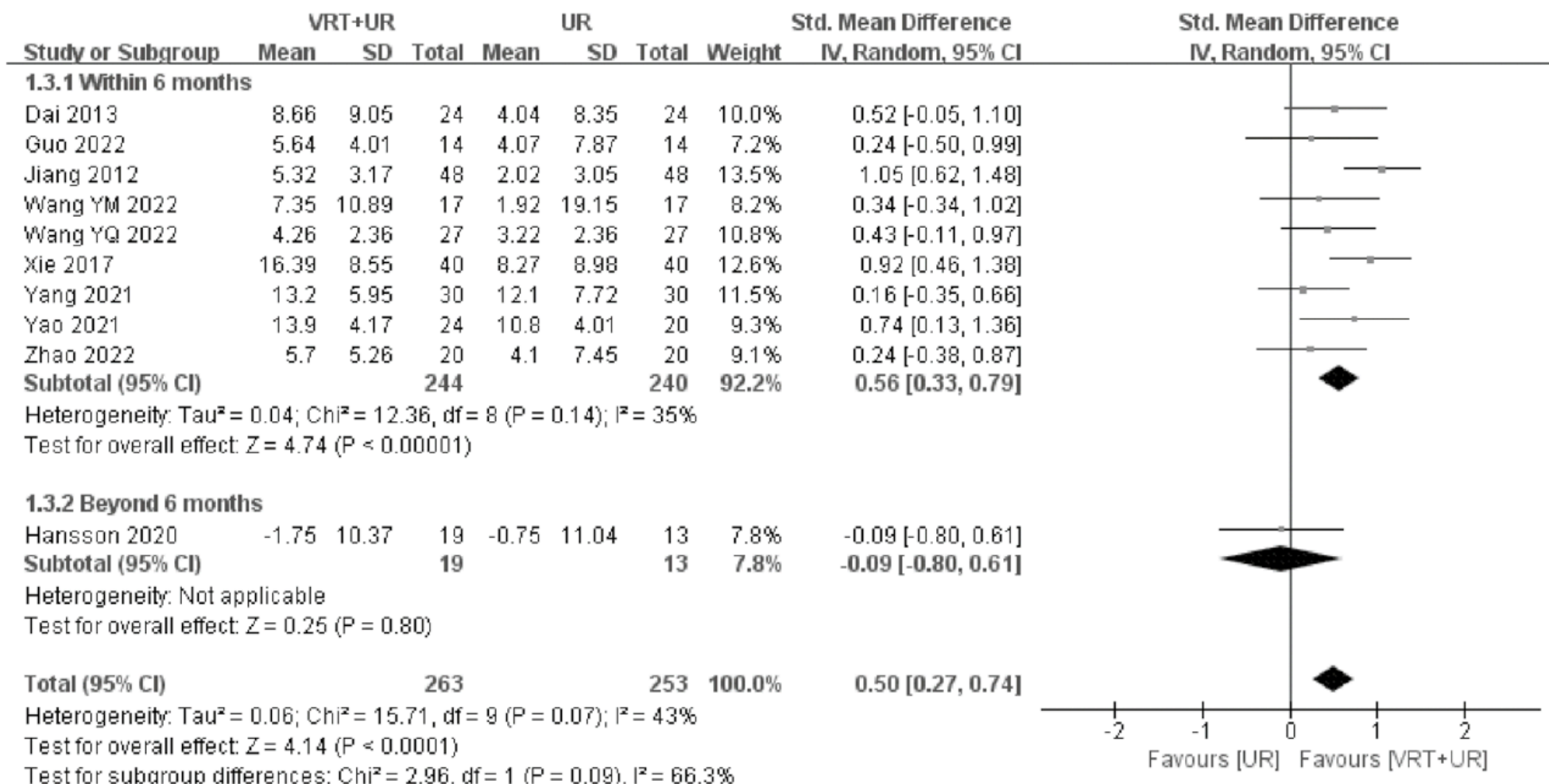
VRT and Improvement in Balance

(A) Overall effect on balance scales



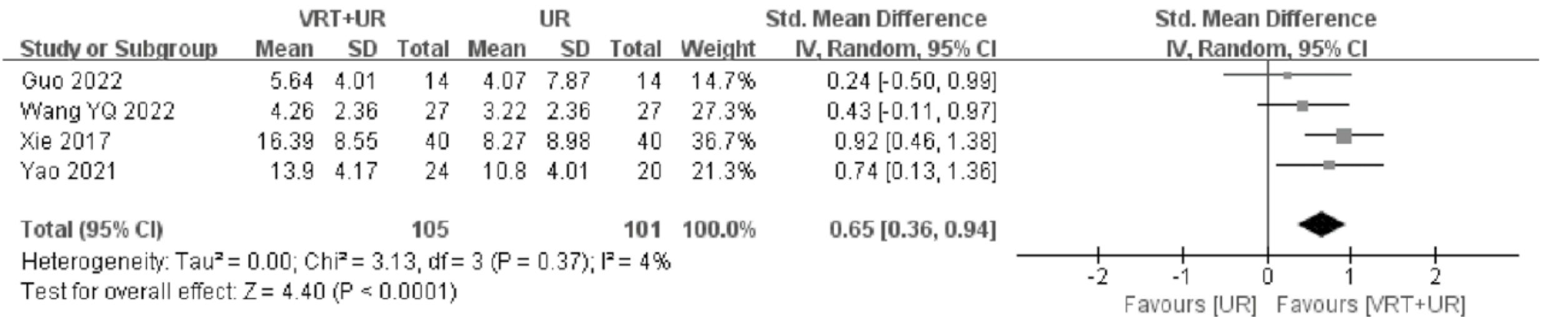
VRT and Improvement in Balance

(C) Patients with various stroke duration



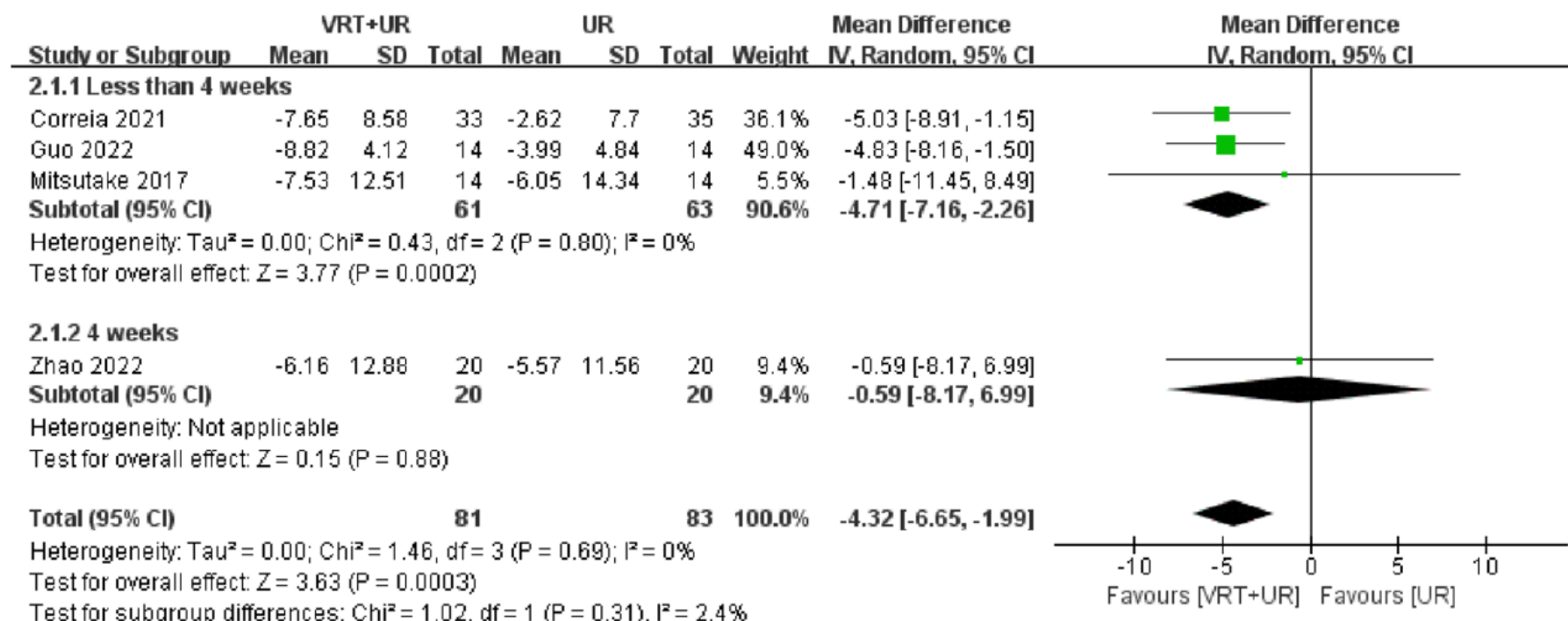
VRT and Improvement in Balance

(D) Patients with stroke occurred within 3 months

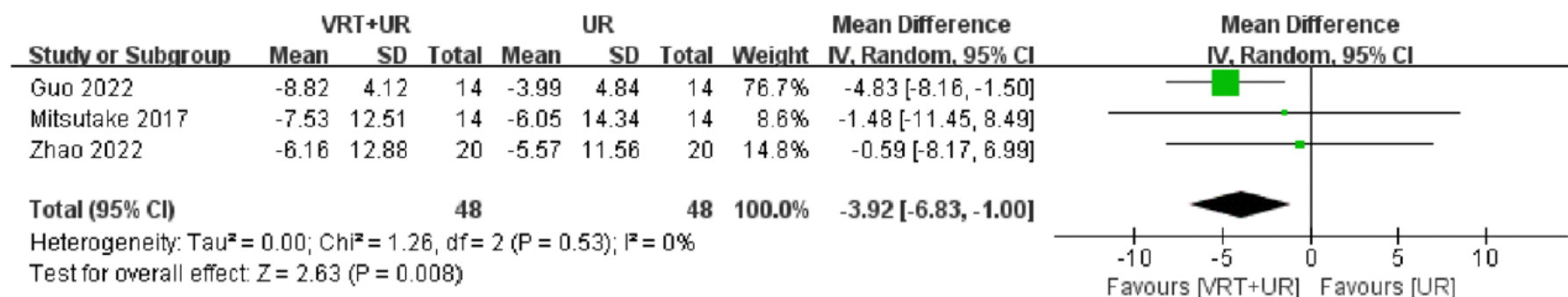


VRT and Improvement in Gait

(A) Various intervention duration of VRT on TUG

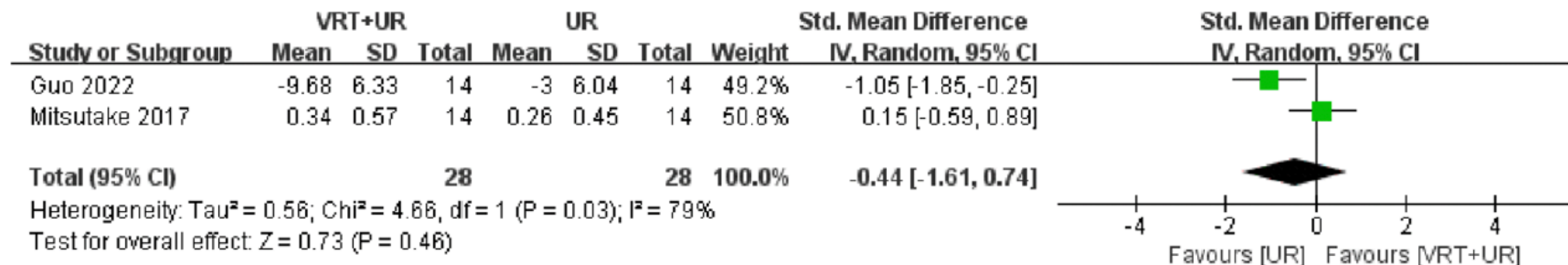


(B) VRT on TUG in patients with stroke occurred within 6 months

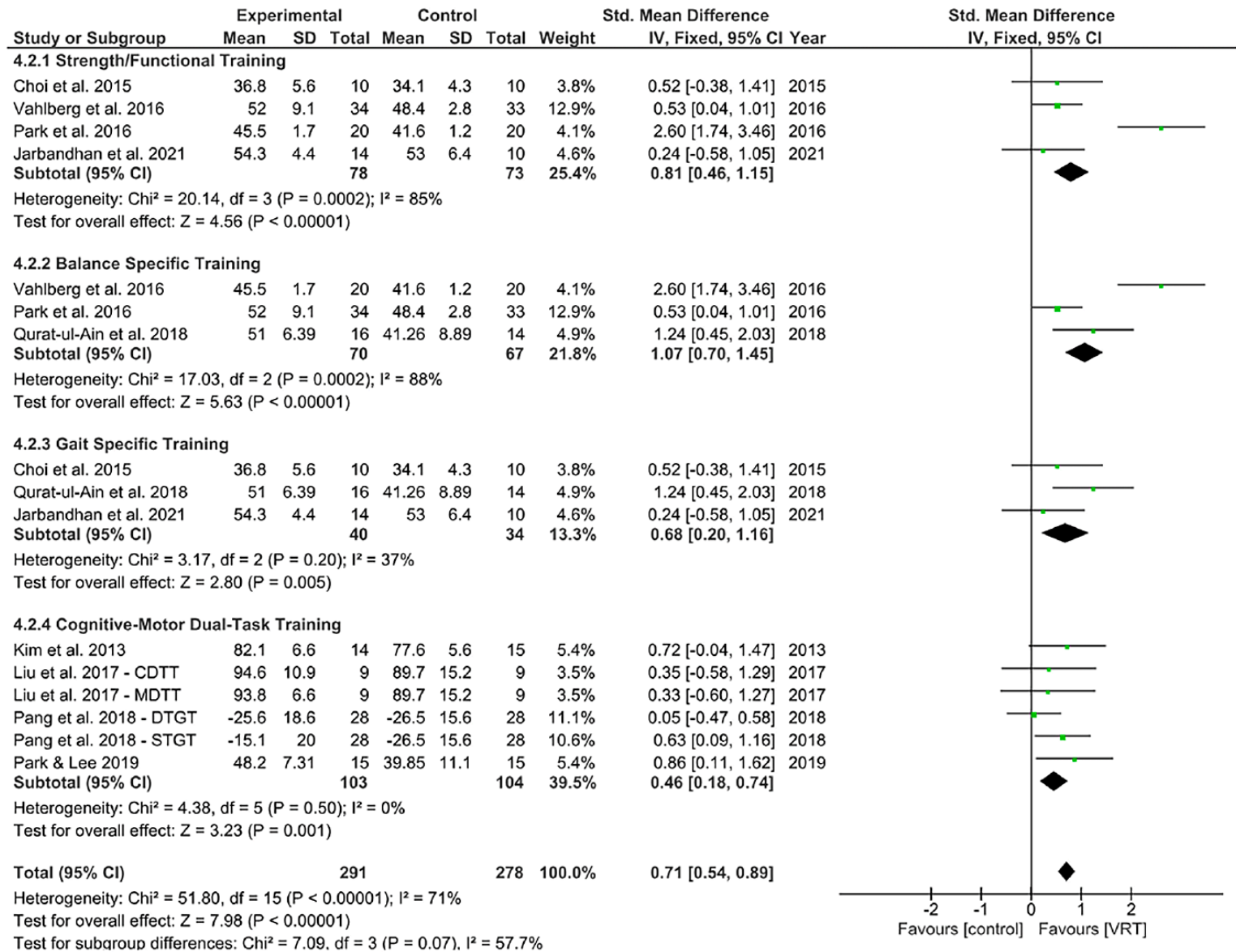


VRT and Improvement in Gait

(F) 10MWT



Vestibular Therapy and Gait



VRT and Fatigue after Stroke

TABLE 2: The within-group and between-group analyses of the Fatigue Impact Scale, Fatigue Assessment Scale, Beck Depression Inventory-II, Barthel Index, and Lawton ADL Scale in two groups, the experimental group (16 patients received vestibular rehabilitation interventions) and the control group (16 patients received conventional rehabilitation interventions).

Variables		Experimental group			Control group			Between groups after treatment		
		Baseline mean (SD)	Outcome mean (SD)	Within group <i>p</i>	Baseline mean (SD)	Outcome mean (SD)	Within group <i>p</i>	Mean difference (SE)	<i>p</i> value	Effect size
FIS	Physical	25.0 (5.11)	21.16 (6.11)	0.000*	28.11 (8.43)	27.88 (8.50)	0.042*	6.72 (2.46)	0.01***	0.38
	Cognitive	7.77 (2.23)	6.88 (2.44)	0.000*	7.05 (2.97)	7.05 (2.97)	1*	0.16 (0.90)	0.85***	—
	Social	37.61 (8.81)	33.72 (9.92)	0.000*	37.38 (9.03)	37.38 (8.99)	1.00*	3.66 (3.15)	0.25***	—
	Total	70.38 (13.87)	61.77 (16.73)	0.000*	72.55 (19.84)	72.27 (19.83)	0.056*	10.50 (6.11)	0.95***	—
FAS		28.38 (2.78)	23.16 (3.32)	0.000*	29.88 (3.72)	29.61 (3.77)	0.096*	6.44 (1.18)	0.000***	1.34
BDI-II		12.33 (6.56)	9.05 (5.59)	0.001*	12.44 (4.78)	12.33 (4.88)	0.163*	3.27 (1.75)	0.070***	—
BI		85.83 (8.61)	87.77 (7.90)	0.038**	85.00 (8.57)	85.27 (8.65)	0.317**	-2.50 (2.76)	0.37***	—
Lawton ADL		6.50 (1.46)	7.66 (1.53)	0.005**	6.94 (1.43)	7.05 (1.39)	0.157**	-0.61 (0.48)	0.21***	—

Notes: data were presented as mean (standard deviation) and mean difference (Std. error difference). *Paired *t*-test. **Wilcoxon signed rank test. ***Independent *t*. Abbreviations: FIS = Fatigue Impact Scale; FAS = Fatigue Assessment Scale; BDI-II = Beck Depression Inventory-II; BI = Barthel Index; Lawton ADL = Instrumental Activities of Daily Living.

Study Limitations on Vestibular Therapy in Stroke

- Poorly defined stroke characteristics included in inclusion criteria
- Lack of standardization amongst VRT protocols in studies
 - Dosing, duration, and delivery mode
- Too few high-quality studies

Virtual Reality and Vestibular Therapy

RESEARCH ARTICLE: CLINICAL TRIAL/EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

Effects of vestibular rehabilitation therapy versus virtual reality on balance, dizziness, and gait in patients with subacute stroke: A randomized controlled trial

Sana, Vishal MSNMPT^a; Ghous, Misbah MSNMPT^a;  Kashif, Muhammad PhD, PT^{a,c,d,*}; Albalwi, Abdulaziz PhD-PT^b; Muneer, Rashida MSNMPT^a; Zia, Mahnoor MSNMPT^a

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Medicine 102(24):p e33203, June 16, 2023. | DOI:

RESEARCH

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Contextual sensory integration training vs. traditional vestibular rehabilitation: a pilot randomized controlled trial

Jennifer Kelly^{1,2}, Daphna Harel³, Santosh Krishnamoorthy^{1,2}, Gene Fu^{1,2}, Brittani Morris⁴, Andrew Medlin⁴, Sarah Mischinati⁴, Zhu Wang⁵, John Sutera^{1,2,4}, Ken Perlin⁵, Maura Cosetti^{2*} and Anat V. Lubetzky⁴



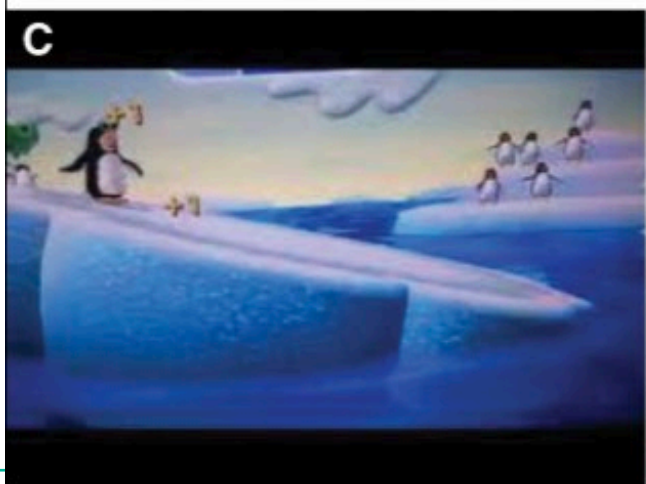
Virtual Reality and Vestibular Therapy



Table Tilt



Tight Rope Tension



Penguin Slide



Ski Slalom

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Thank you!