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学位論文題名	Reaction time analysis in patients with mild left unilateral spatial neglect employing the modified Posner task: vertical and horizontal dimensions (修正ポズナー課題を用いた軽度左側空間無視患者の反応時間分析：垂直と水平方向)		
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【論文の内容の要旨】

Unilateral spatial neglect (USN) is defined as the lack of contralesional space perception, which often occurs after right- and left-hemisphere damage. The left USN (43%) was more frequent than the right USN (19%). Studies of USN often focus on horizontal spatial dimensions (left-right). However, USN can also occur in vertical spatial dimensions (upper-lower). For instance, there are several examples in the literature, not described by the authors, of patients who show neglect in the lower half quadrant of space. By examining the performance of the modified Posner task added to the vertical dimensions of the left and right visual fields, we studied whether the lower left area had different neglect symptoms than the other locations. 41 patients with right hemisphere damage were classified into those with mild USN (USN+; n = 20) and without USN (USN-; n = 21). Twenty older participants made up the healthy control (HC; n = 20) group. All participants recorded deficits in the paper and pencil tests established for neglect and reaction times in the modified Posner task. In the paper and pencil tests, there was no difference in deficit between the upper and lower left visual fields in any of the groups. According to the modified Posner task, the USN+ group exhibited delays in reaction time in the lower left visual field rather than the upper left visual field. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first cross-sectional study focusing on the vertical and horizontal dimensions in the reaction time of mild USN.

Importantly, reaction times were delayed, and USN symptoms persisted, particularly for the lower left quadrant. Our findings imply that the modified Posner task can accurately uncover neglect symptoms in the case of mild USN.