

L'osservazione di azioni in riabilitazione

- L'osservazione di movimenti altrui può creare delle memorie motorie nel cervello dell'osservatore (Stefan et al., 2005).
- A partire da questa evidenza, l'osservazione di azioni può essere affiancata a dei training esecutivi per potenziare le capacità di recupero dei pazienti.

Come agisce l'osservazione di azioni

- L'osservazione di azioni produce un **aumento dell'eccitabilità corticospinale**, che a sua volta potrebbe risultare come un substrato adatto sul quale far leva durante un training motorio.
- L'**esecuzione** di un movimento è influenzata dall'osservazione di quello stesso movimento (*Brass et al., 2000; Craighero et al., 2002*).
- L'osservazione di azioni ha un impatto positivo sull'**apprendimento motorio** (*Mattar and Gribble 2005*).
- L'osservazione di azioni ha un impatto positivo sulla produzione di **forza** (*Porro et al., 2007*).

TMS e apprendimento motorio

RAPID COMMUNICATION

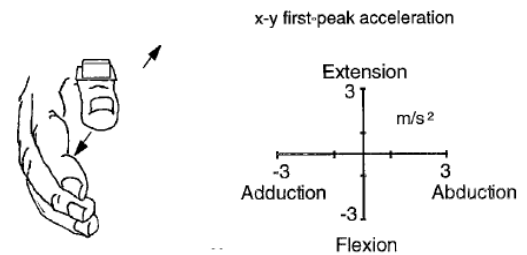
Rapid Plasticity of Human Cortical Movement Representation Induced by Practice

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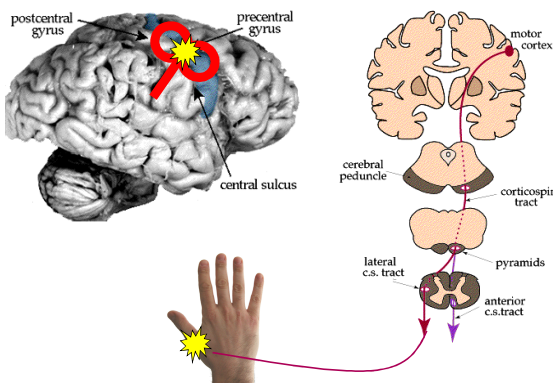
J Neurophysiol 79:1117-1123, 1998.

TMS e apprendimento motorio

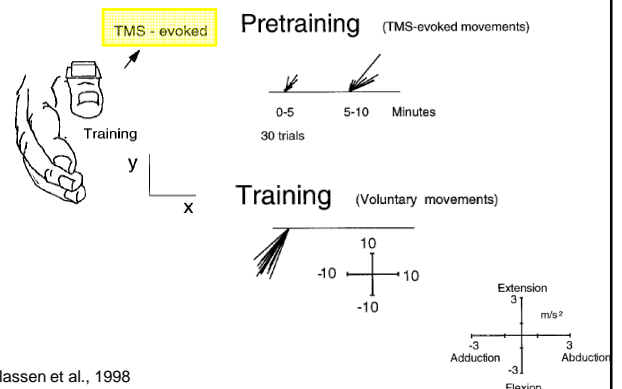


Classen et al., 1998

Stimolazione dell'area motoria

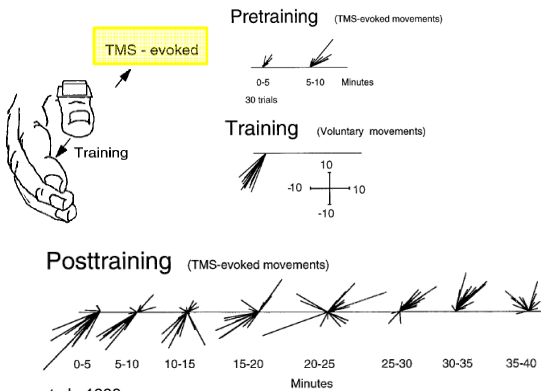


TMS e apprendimento motorio



Classen et al., 1998

TMS e apprendimento motorio



Classen et al., 1998

TMS e apprendimento motorio (osservazione di azioni)

Behavioral/Systems/Cognitive

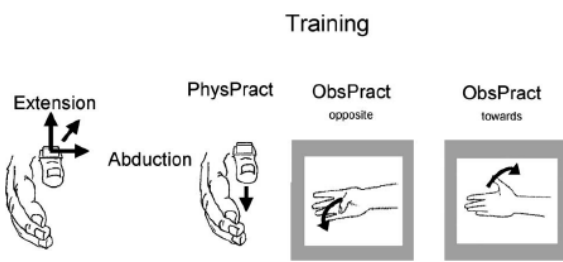
The Journal of Neuroscience, October 12, 2005 • 25(41):9339–9346

Formation of a Motor Memory by Action Observation

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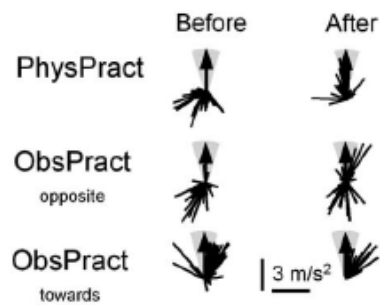
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TMS e apprendimento motorio (osservazione di azioni)



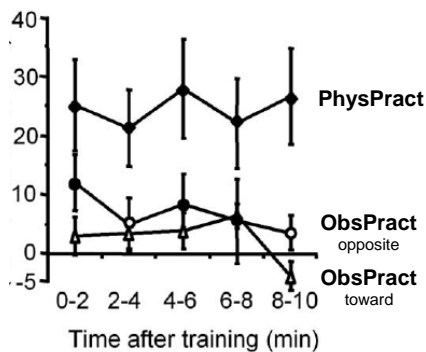
Stefan et al., 2005

TMS e apprendimento motorio (osservazione di azioni)



Stefan et al., 2005

TMS e apprendimento motorio (osservazione di azioni)




Stefan et al., 2005

Possibili applicazioni

- L'osservazione di azioni da sola ha un effetto benefico limitato.
- Deve essere abbinata a dei training fisici.
- È stata recentemente utilizzata per pazienti con deficit motori conseguenti ad ictus e per pazienti con sclerosi multipla.
- La ricerca attuale sta indagando un possibile impiego anche nell'aprassia, nel Morbo di Parkinson e nella distonia.

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Action Observation Improves Freezing of Gait in Patients With Parkinson's Disease

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Background. Freezing of gait (FOG) is a disabling impairment for people with Parkinson's disease (PD) and may not respond to medications. The effectiveness of physical therapy for FOG is debatable. Action observation strategies to overcome FOG may enhance physical training. **Objective.** To assess whether action observation, combined with practicing the observed actions, may reduce FOG episodes. **Methods.** Twenty patients with PD entered a single-blind trial and were randomly assigned to the experimental (Action) or control (Landscape) groups. Those in the Action group watched video clips showing specific movements and strategies to circumvent FOG episodes, whereas those in the Landscape group watched video clips of static pictures showing different landscapes. All patients underwent identical physical therapy training, 3 sessions a week for 4 weeks. **Results.** The FOG Questionnaire score and the number of FOG episodes were significantly reduced in both groups after the training period. At follow-up examination (4 weeks after the end of the intervention), a significant reduction in the number of FOG episodes was observed only in the Action group. Motor performance (walking and balance) and quality-of-life assessments were significantly improved in both groups at the end of training and at follow-up. **Conclusions.** Our results suggest that action observation has a positive additional effect on recovery of walking ability in PD patients with FOG. Further studies on the combination of observation and imitation to supplement a physical training program may result in an innovative rehabilitative approach for FOG.

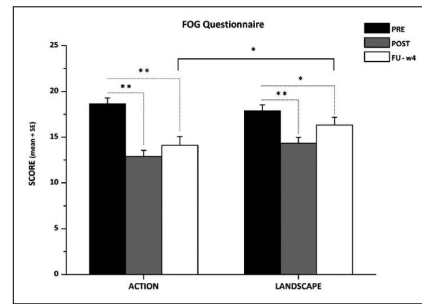


Figure 1. The mean (+ SE) score of the freezing of gait (FOG) Questionnaire was significantly reduced at the end of the physical therapy program (POST) and at follow-up examination (FU) in both the experimental (ACTION) and the control (LANDSCAPE) group. Post hoc Newman-Keuls tests showed that a significantly larger reduction was present at FU in the experimental group.

