Controlled vestibular stimulation: Novel supplementary treatment for cancer pain- An update

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More than half of cancer patients have insufficient pain control, and about a quarter of them actually die in pain. Hence there is a need for a novel method to relieve cancer pain, which is affordable and easily available to general population. Vestibular system is having extensive interactions with thalamus, hypothalamus, periaqueductal grey, parabrachial nucleus, cerebellum, nucleus tractus solitarius and raphe nuclei and modulates the activity of these areas to initiate pain modulatory responses. Controlled vestibular stimulation also modulates somato-sensory perception and attention and increases threshold for pain sensation. Controlled vestibular stimulation can be applied to relieve cancer pain and we suggest translational research in this area for patient care and treatment.

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