The neurophysiological basis of motor imagery Decety J Social Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Motor imagery, defined as the active process during which an action is mentally performed within working memory without any corresponding motor output, has been in the past decades the object of intensive neurocognitive investigation. Several converging approaches, including measurements of automomic nervous system and hemodynamic changes (with positron emission tomography and functional magnetic resonance imaging), as well as neuropsychological observations with population of patients have led to the notion that executed action and imagined actions are implemented in similar neural networks. Such findings cast some light into our understanding of the organization of motor behavior. They also can have great potential implications in neurorehabilitation practice.

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