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Motor Learning and Plasticity

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Motor learning occurs at such a basic level that it often eludes conscious detection. Yet even during the simplest motor act, such as walking or picking up an object, the human brain executes a complex series of computations inaccessible to even the most advanced robot. The following categories of motor learning will be discussed: practice, sequence learning, visuomotor adaption, and learning of dynamics. Then functional imaging studies that reveal changes in brain activation over the time course of learning will be discussed. Finally, the relationships between brain plasticity, motor learning and motor recovery after brain injury will be touched upon.