## **Contents**

1	Intr	oduction	1
2		erials and Methods	3
	2.1	First Major Set: Mild Indirect Stimulation of the Trigeminal Afferents	
		After Combined Surgery on the Infraorbital and Facial Nerves	
		by Removal (Clipping) of the Contralateral Vibrissal Hairs	3
		2.1.1 Animal Groups and Overview of the Specific Methods Used	
		in the First Experimental Set	3
		2.1.2 Combined Nerve Surgery (FFA + ION-S)	5
		2.1.3 Increased Ipsilateral Vibrissal Use (Vibrissal Stimulation, VS)	
		After Combined Surgery in Group 2	8
		2.1.4 Manual Stimulation of Vibrissal Muscles After Combined Surgery	
		in Groups 3 and 4	8
		2.1.5 Observations on Whisking Behavior	9
		2.1.6 Analysis of Vibrissae Motor Performance During Exploration	
			0
		, 0	0
			2
		0 1	6
			١7
	2.2	Second Major Set: Intensive Indirect Stimulation of the Trigeminal	
		Afferents After Facial Nerve Surgery by Excision of the Contralateral	
			18
		2.2.1 Experiments to Determine the Degree of Collateral Axonal	
		Branching by Application of Fluorescent Dyes on the Transected	
		Superior and Inferior Buccolabial Rami of the Buccal Facial	
			18
		2.2.2 Experiments to Determine the Accuracy of Reinnervation	• •
			23
	2.3	Third Major Set: Direct Stimulation of the Trigeminal and Facial	
		6-7-7	28
		1	28 33
			33
			34
			34 34
			54 34
		2.3.7 Analysis of the Synaptic Input to the Facial Motoneurons	94

	2.4	2.3.8 Estimation of Axonal Branching by Triple Retrograde Labeling 2.3.9 Analysis of Target Muscle Reinnervation 2.3.10 Statistical Evaluation Fourth Major Set: Direct Stimulation of the Trigeminal and Facial Nerves After Facial Nerve Surgery by Application of Electric Current to the Vibrissal Muscles	35 37 37
		2.4.1 Animal Groups and Overview of Experiments 2.4.2 Surgical Procedures	38 38
		2.4.3 Electrical Stimulation	39
		2.4.4 Analysis of Vibrissal Motor Performance	40
		2.4.5 Estimation of Axonal Branching by Triple Retrograde Labeling	42
		2.4.6 Analysis of Target Muscle Reinnervation	42
		2.4.7 Statistical Evaluation	42
•	D		43
3		ults	4.
	5.1	Surgery on the Infraorbital and Facial Nerves by Removal of the	
		Contralateral Vibrissal Hairs Improves Vibrissal Function	43
		3.1.1 Observations on Restoration of Vibrissal Whisking	43
		3.1.2 All Three Interventions (Sensory, Mechanical, and Sensory +	
		Mechanical Stimulation) Improved Vibrissal Function After	
		Combined Facial and Infraorbital Nerve Injury	43
		3.1.3 For All Treatments (Sensory, Mechanical, and Sensory +	
		Mechanical Stimulation) Functional Outcome Correlates with	
		Quality of Target Muscle Reinnervation	44
		3.1.4 Numbers of Synaptophysin-Positive Axon Boutons in the Facial	
		Nucleus Are Unaffected, Regardless of the Treatment	46
		3.1.5 No Neuronal Loss in the Trigeminal Ganglion After ION Lesion	47
	3.2	Intensive Indirect Stimulation of the Trigeminal Afferents by Excision	
		of the Contralateral ION Attenuates the Degree of Collateral Axonal	
		Branching and Improves the Accuracy of Muscle Reinnervation	48
		3.2.1 Reduced Degree of Collateral Axonal Branching as Determined	
		by Application of Two Fluorescent Dyes on the Transected Superior	4.
		and Inferior Buccolabial Rami of the Buccal Facial Branch	48
		3.2.2 Improved Accuracy of Reinnervation as Established by Means of Intramuscular Injections of Fluorescent Dyes and Electrophysiological	
		Measurements	54
	2 2	Direct Stimulation of the Trigeminal and Facial Nerves by Massage	34
	3.3	of the Vibrissal Muscles Improves the Quality of Target Reinnervation	
		and Promotes Full Recovery of Whisking Function	60
		3.3.1 Analysis of Vibrissae Motor Performance During Exploration	60
		3.3.2 Manual Stimulation Counteracts Posttraumatic Loss of	•
		Synaptophysin-Positive Axon Terminals in the Facial Nucleus	62
		3.3.3 Degree of Collateral Axonal Branching Remains Elevated	
		Regardless of Stimulation	62
		3.3.4 Mechanical Stimulation Reduces the Degree of Motor End Plate	
		Polyinnervation	64
		3.3.5 Manually Stimulated Recovery of Motor Function After Facial	
		Nerve Injury Requires Intact Sensory Input	64

3.4 Direct Stimulation of the Trigeminal and Facial Nerves by Electric	
Current to the Vibrissal Muscles Fails to Improve Quality of Target Reinnervation and Does Not Promote Recovery of Vibrissal Function	65
3.4.1 Electrical Stimulation of the Vibrissal Muscles Does Not Promote	
Recovery of Whisking	65
of ES	65
3.4.3 ES Does Not Reduce Polyinnervation of the Motor End Plates	66 67
5.4.4 ES Reduces the Number of Motor End Plates	07
4 Discussion	69
4.1 Mild Indirect Stimulation of the Trigeminal Afferents by Removal of the	
Contralateral Vibrissal Hairs Has a Beneficial Effect on Motor Recovery	69
4.1.1 Importance of Sensory Fiber Regeneration for Motor	69
Axonal Regrowth 4.1.2 Influence of Synaptic Coverage on Axonal Regrowth and Quality	09
of Target Reinnervation	70
4.1.3 Clinical Application	71
4.2 Beneficial Effect of the Intensive Indirect Stimulation of the Trigeminal	
Afferents by Excision of the Contralateral Infraorbital Nerve	72
4.2.1 Removal of the Contralateral Trigeminal (ION) Input Attenuates	
the Degree of Collateral Axonal Branching Within the Transected Buccal Branch of the Facial Nerve	72
4.2.2 Observations on the Recovering Vibrissal Function	74
4.2.3 Removal of the Contralateral Trigeminal (ION) Input Improves	′ -
Quality of Whisker Pad Musculature Reinnervation	76
4.3 Complete Recovery of Motor Function After Direct Stimulation of the	
Trigeminal and Facial Nerves by Massage of the Vibrissal Muscles	79
4.3.1 Methodological Considerations	79 80
4.3.3 Possible Mechanisms of the Beneficial Effects	80
4.3.4 Adverse Effect of Trigeminal Nerve Ablation on Functional	-
Recovery After FFA	85
4.3.5 The Effect of Manual Stimulation Depends on the Integrity of the	
Trigeminal Sensory System	85
4.4 Deleterious Effect of the Direct Stimulation of the Trigeminal and Facial Nerves by Application of Electric Current to the Vibrissal Muscles	86
4.4.1 Rationale to Use Electrical Stimulation for Treatment	80
of Denervated Muscles	87
4.4.2 Effect of Electrical Stimulation on the Quality of Muscle	
Reinnervation	88
	٥.
5 Conclusion	91
References	93
Subject Index	107