

OBJECTIVES

- What is vestibular therapy?
 - Review the anatomy of the inner ear
 - Discuss common causes of vertigo
 - Overview of vestibular screening and evaluation
 - Review treatment strategies to address balance deficits and vertigo



BALANCE

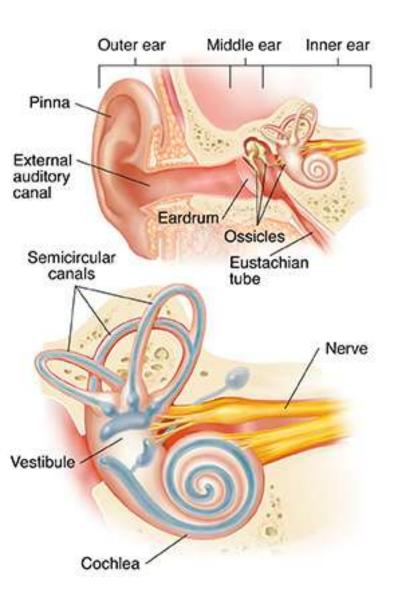
Vestibular system

Vision

Somatosensory

Integration in central nervous system

- Vestibulo-ocular reflex
- Vestibulo-spinal reflex
- Vestibulo-collic reflex



INNER EAR ANATOMY Semiciruclar canals Anterior Posterior Horizontal Otolithic organs Utricle Saccule Creator: Mary Ann Zapalac Copyright: © The StayWell Company

BPPV BENIGN
PAROXYSMAL
POSITIONAL
VERTIGO

Most common cause of dizziness in patients over 60 years

Otoconia become displaced into semicircular canals

Symptoms: brief episodes of vertigo and upbeating torsional nystagmus lasting 20-60 seconds.

Treatment: Canalith repositioning maneuvers

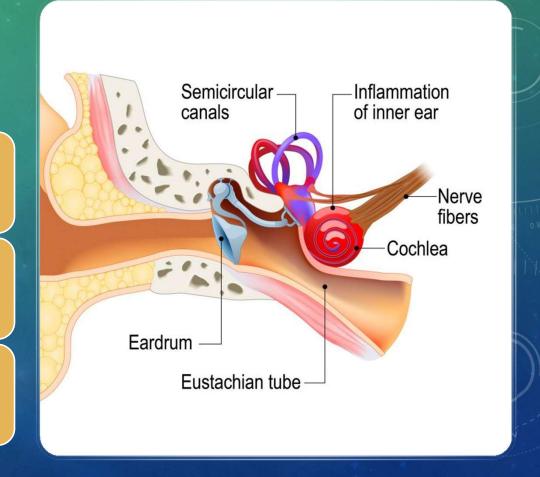
- Epley
- Semont

VESTIBULAR NEURITIS

Second most common cause of vertigo

Inflammation of 8th cranial nerve

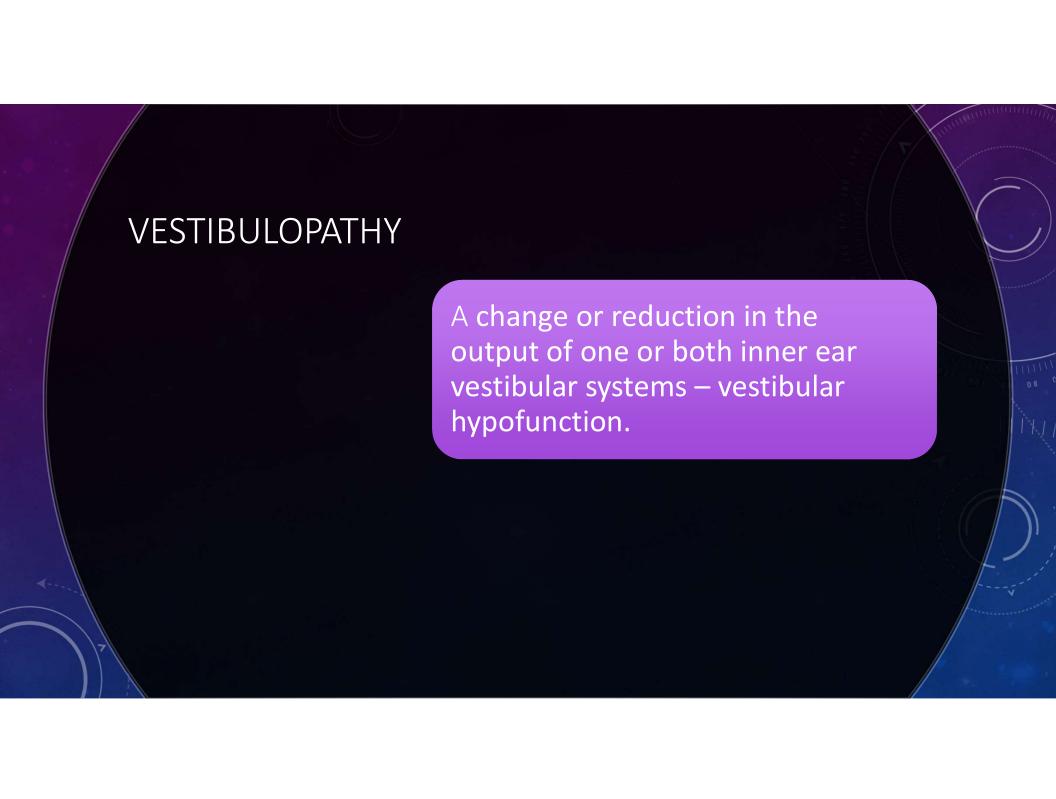
Symptoms: acute onset of prolonged severe rotational vertigo that is exacerbated by head movements





CLINICAL PRESENTATION:

VESTIBULAR NEURITIS VS. BPPV



SCREENING AND EVALUATION FOR VESTIBULAR DYSFUNCTION

 "Assessing vestibular asymmetry could predict falls among elderly patients with multisensory dizziness". (4)

- Falls Efficacy scale
- Activities Specific Balance and Dizziness Handicap Inventory Scales (ABC)

SOMATOSENSORY

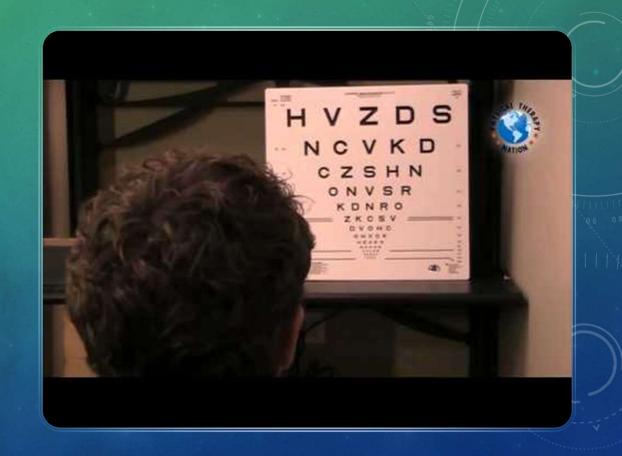
Standardized balance test with age related normal values

Gait speed

- Community dwellers need to be able to walk 1.2 meters per second
- If less than .7m/s = increased need for caregiver, nursing home placement, death

VISION ASSESSMENT

- Smooth pursuit
- Saccade
- Vestibular Ocular Reflex (VOR)
- Oscillopsia
- Have they been to the eye doctor?





• Assess vestibulo-ocular reflex



VESTIBULAR REHABILITATION

Improve or restore coordination of head and eye movement and balance and equilibrium function



Substitution

Strengthen weakened system to return to function by challenging remaining ones



Adaptation

Extinguish symptoms through repetition



Habituation

Repetition of provoking motion to reduce pathological response

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