

The Neuro-otology Investigation Unit was established to help people with dizziness or balance problems. Neuro-otology testing is performed to document the function of the inner ear (vestibular system) and will be carried out by a specialist balance audiologist.

Balance disorders can cause great discomfort and can be difficult to treat. We can help by working with your specialist to find out what is causing the problem. Once the problem is identified, the most appropriate management for your balance problem can be put in place.

What is involved in neuro-otology testing?

There are different types of assessment for the balance system, and you may undergo some of the following:

- **Hearing test:** The hearing organ (cochlea) and the balance organs are both located in the inner ear, and assessment of hearing function may be necessary to make an accurate diagnosis. In this test you will hear tones of different pitches and you will need to press a button for the sounds you can hear.
- **cVEMP:** This test involves monitoring muscle activity in the neck while your head is raised off the pillow and clicking noises are played through headphones.
- **oVEMP:** The activity of the eye muscles is monitored while your eyes are looking up and a device is placed on the forehead and taps lightly.
- **Calorics:** Air is inserted into the outer ear for about one minute. This causes fluid to move in the inner ear and your eye movements in response to this are recorded.
- **Rotational chair:** A special chair is rotated back and forth while a camera records your eye movements. The chair does not make any sudden movements and the speed is no faster than what is achieved if you were turned around in an office chair.
- **Video Head Impulse Test (vHIT):** Quick but small head movements are performed from side to side and your eye movements are recorded.

Neuro-otology testing is an important step for people with particular dizziness problems. The audiologist understands that some patients may be a little anxious about the tests and would be happy to answer any questions or concerns in your appointment. The audiologist is also available to help the patient understand more about their hearing and balance.

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