



**VERTIGO**

- Illusion of movement due to an imbalance of tonic vestibular activity within central or peripheral vestibular pathways (need to differentiate from light headedness)
- Commonly associated with nystagmus, postural imbalance and autonomic symptoms(sweating, nausea, vomiting)

**Differential Diagnosis:**

- **Peripheral Causes** –Benign Positional Vertigo, viral or ischaemic labyrinthitis, trauma, toxins, Meniere’s Disease
- **Central Causes-** TIA posterior circulation (rare as only sign), migrainous vertigo, demyelination, seizures, space occupying lesions (eg cerebellopontine angle tumours)

**Information Required**

- Presence of Red flags
- Careful history including drug history-alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates phenothiazines, aminoglycoside antibiotics, anticonvulsants
- Associated other neurological signs-eg diplopia, nystagmus, gait ataxia, limb weakness, sensory disturbances or incoordination
- Hearing loss
- Precipitating factors-coughing, head movements
- Duration eg BPV- last seconds, brought on by certain head movements
- Whether it is episodic
- Acute/subacute/chronic onset




**Investigations Required**

- FBE, EUC, LFTs
- CT head.

**Fax Referrals to Neurology**

- Flinders Medical Centre Fax: 8204 4059

**Red Flags**

-  Associated other neurological signs (sensory facial changes, diplopia, dysarthria, dysphagia, extremity weakness or numbness or incoordination)-consider central aetiology
-  Gait disturbance(ataxia)
-  CT head abnormality

**Suggested GP Management**

1. Careful neurological exam
2. Provocative testing-Hallpike manoeuvre: - if positive, refer to a neurophysiotherapist for vestibular exercises
3. Refer to ENT if associated hearing impairment

**Clinical Resources**

- Medlink Neurology- [www.medlink.com](http://www.medlink.com)

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	September 2014	September 2016	Original
2.0	September 2016	October 2018	Removal of RGH details
3.0	October 2019	October 2021	Red Flag Box updated
4.0	December 2022	December 2024	Fax number updated

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC and RGH are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients)



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