


# Using Functional Outcomes to Predict Vestibular Loss in Children.

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**BOYS TOWN**  
 National Research  
 Hospital 

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## Disclosures

- Employee of Boys Town National Research Hospital;
- NIH Grant Recipient;
- Consultant: Natus;
- Consultant: Decibel Therapeutics;
- Consultant: Interacoustics
- Balance Function Assessment and Management Textbook, Editor
- Ear & Hearing, Section Editor

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## Objectives

After this course, participants will be able to:

1. List causes of pediatric vestibular loss and dizziness
2. List consequences of vestibular loss in children
3. List outcomes that can be used to predict the presence of vestibular loss in children.

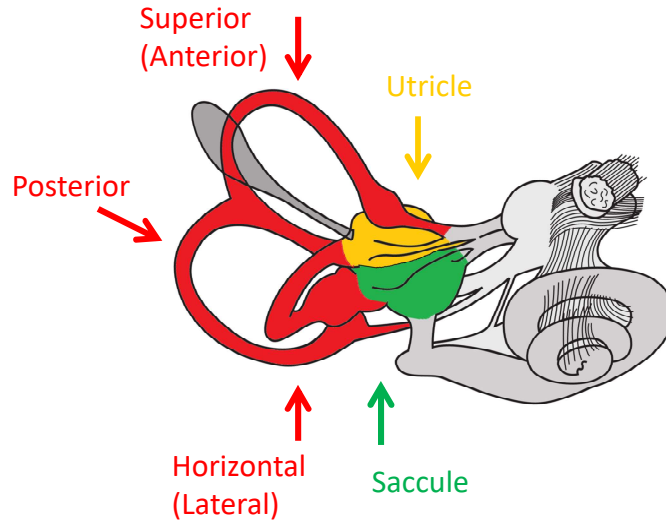
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## What is the vestibular system?



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# What is the vestibular system?



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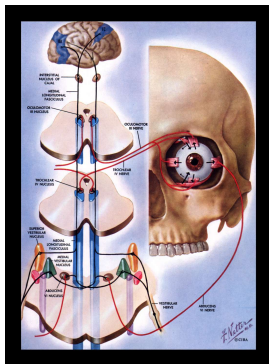


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## Vestibular Reflexes

### Vestibulo-ocular

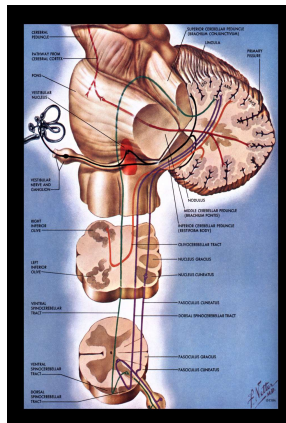
Maintain steady vision during head movements



Jacobson & Shepard, 2008

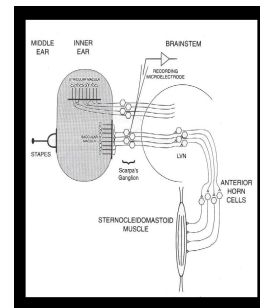
### Vestibulospinal

Maintain posture



### Vestibulocolic

Righting reflex; stabilizes head



From Halmagyi & Curthoys, In Herdman

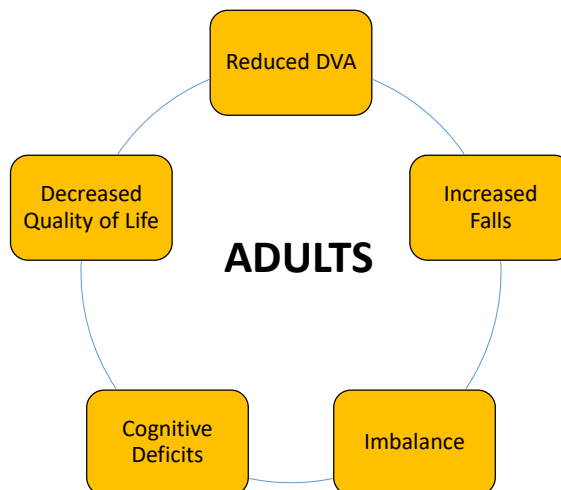


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# What happens when the vestibular system isn't functioning?

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**ADULTS** are significantly affected by vestibular loss



Do children suffer from the same effects of vestibular loss as adults?

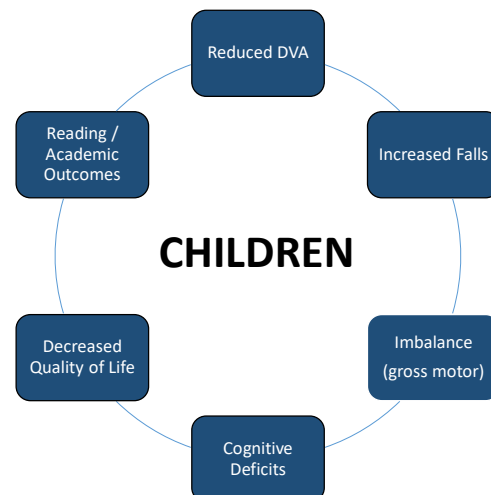
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## There are some important differences among children and adults

- 1) Children are not small adults
- 2) Most adults acquire their vestibular loss in adulthood (so can provide perspective on pre- and post- vestibular loss) whereas most children's vestibular loss is congenital or early acquired
- 3) Children are in a period of exponential development opposed to adults who have the added component of aging – unknown how having vestibular loss interacts with development
- 4) Most children with vestibular loss have co-morbid hearing loss that cannot be overlooked as a contributing factor.

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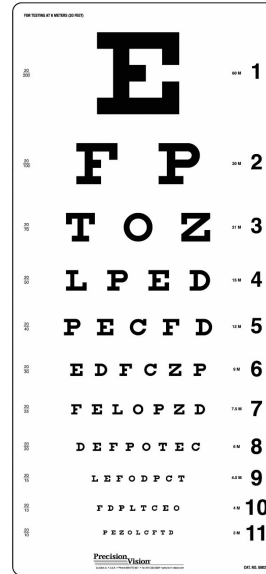
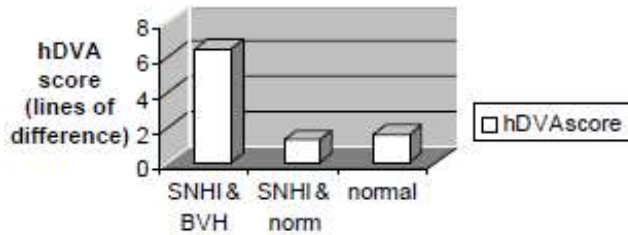
Despite these differences, preliminary evidence suggests that children suffer from the same effects of vestibular loss as adults



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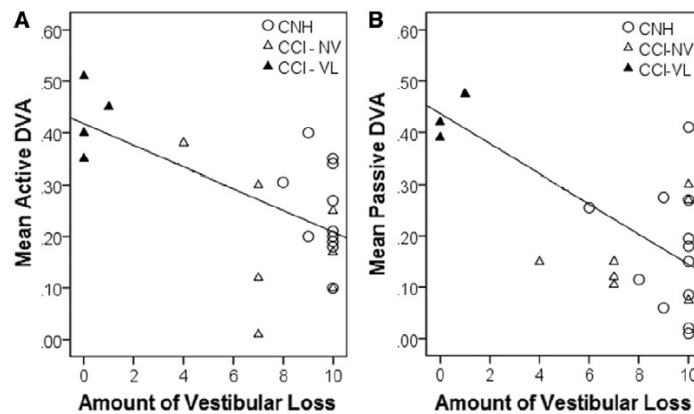
# Similar to adults, children with vestibular loss have reduced dynamic visual acuity

Rine 2003; Braswell 2006; Martin 2012, Christy 2014, Janky 2015, Janky 2021, *etc*



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# More severe vestibular loss is associated with more severe dynamic visual acuity deficits



Vestibular, Visual Acuity, and Balance Outcomes in Children With Cochlear Implants: A Preliminary Report

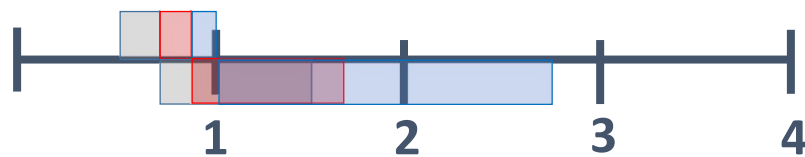
Kristen L. Janky<sup>1</sup> and Diane Givens<sup>2</sup>



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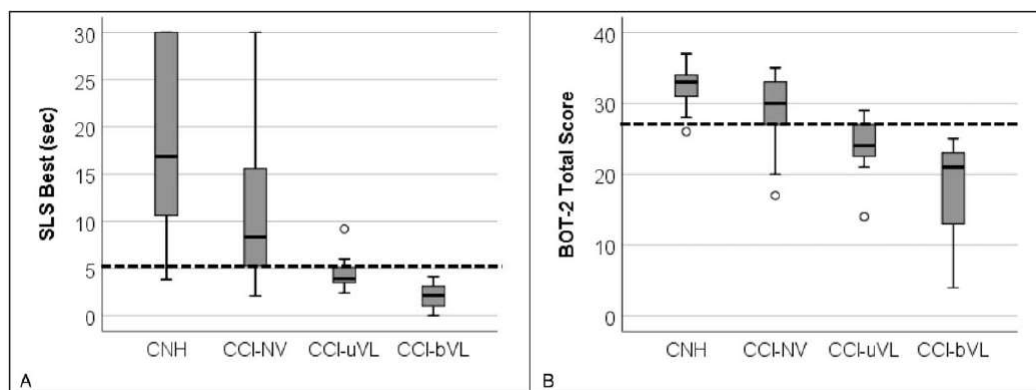
## Children with vestibular loss have gross motor delay

- Children with significant vestibular loss are delayed in gaining head control, sitting, standing, and walking. (Inoue 2013; Janky 2018)
  - Typically developing children sit, stand, and walk at 6 – 8 m, 10 – 11 m, and 10 – 12 m, respectively
  - Children with vestibular loss sit, stand and walk at 8 – 18 m, 9 – 20 m and 12 – 33 m, respectively (Kaga1999).



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## Gross Motor Delay Extends into Later Childhood



**FIG. 1.** A, Single Leg Stance (SLS) best performance across groups. Dotted line denotes 5-second cut-off criterion; B, BOT-2 Balance subtest, total score across groups. Dotted line denotes 27.5 cut off criterion.

Using Functional Outcomes to Predict Vestibular Loss in Children

Kristen L. Janky, Megan LA. Thomas, Jessie Patterson, and Diane Givens

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*Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 2000, 90, 1101-1112. © Perceptual and Motor Skills 2000

### EVIDENCE OF PROGRESSIVE DELAY OF MOTOR DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN WITH SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS AND CONCURRENT VESTIBULAR DYSFUNCTION<sup>1,2</sup>

- “Both gross motor and balance development scores were lower on repeated testing”

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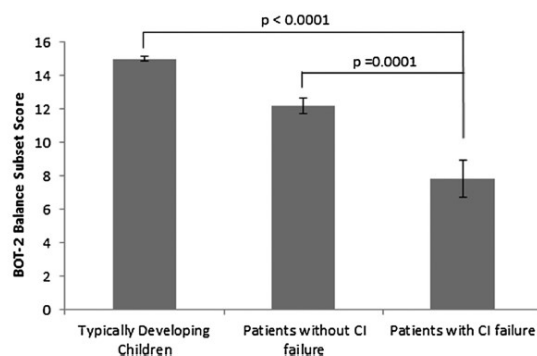
## Children with Vestibular Loss have Imbalance

- Kaga 1999, Rine 2000, Inoue 2013, Maes 2014, Christy 2014, Janky 2018, Sokolov 2019, Janky 2021, etc.



Which can lead to increased falls and CI Failure

- Wolter 2015



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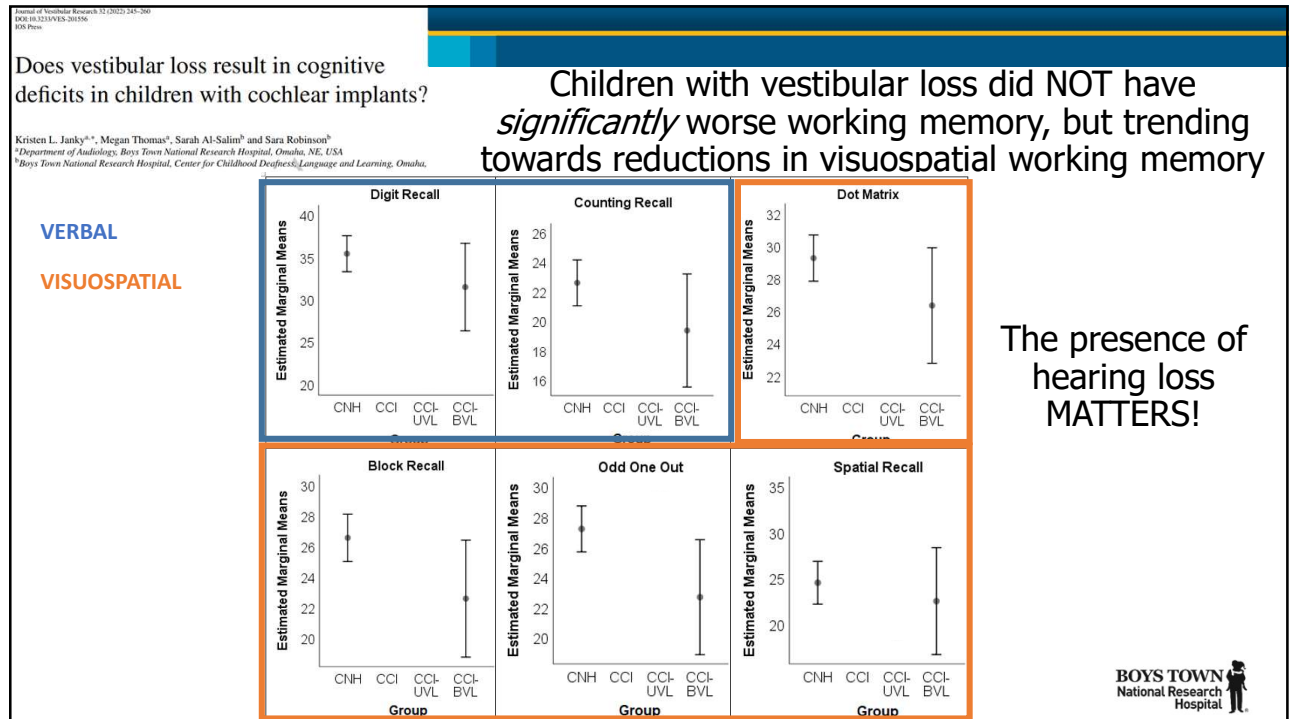


# Cognitive Deficits and Vestibular Loss

- In adults, vestibular loss has been linked to deficits in spatial navigation, spatial memory, visuospatial, attention, executive function, and cognitive processing (e.g., Xie 2017; Kremmyda 2016; Smith 2019; Popp 2017; Bigelow 2015).
- However, the extent to which cognitive deficits exist in children with hearing and comorbid vestibular loss is unclear.



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Journal of Neurology  
 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-023-11774-3

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION

A cross-sectional study on the neurocognitive outcomes in vestibular impaired school-aged children: are they at higher risk for cognitive deficits?

Ruth Van Hecke<sup>1</sup> · Maya Danneels<sup>1</sup> · Frederik J. A. Deconinck<sup>2</sup> · Ingeborg Dhooge<sup>2,4</sup> · Laura Leysens<sup>1</sup> · Emmely Van Acker<sup>1</sup> · Hilde Van Waelvelede<sup>1</sup> · Jan R. Wiersema<sup>5</sup> · Leen Maes<sup>1,3</sup>

## Children with bilateral vestibular dysfunction exhibited more difficulties with **emotion recognition** compared to their typically developing peers

Mean Emotion recognition score (%)

LIV TD BV

Springer

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## Evidence that vestibular hypofunction affects reading acuity in children

International Journal of **Pediatric** Otorhinolaryngology

Jennifer Braswell<sup>a,\*</sup>, Rose Marie Rine<sup>b,1</sup>

logMAR

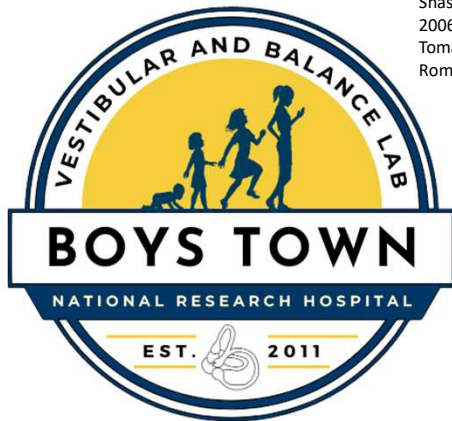
Hypofunction SNHL Healthy

■ CPS  
 ▨ RA

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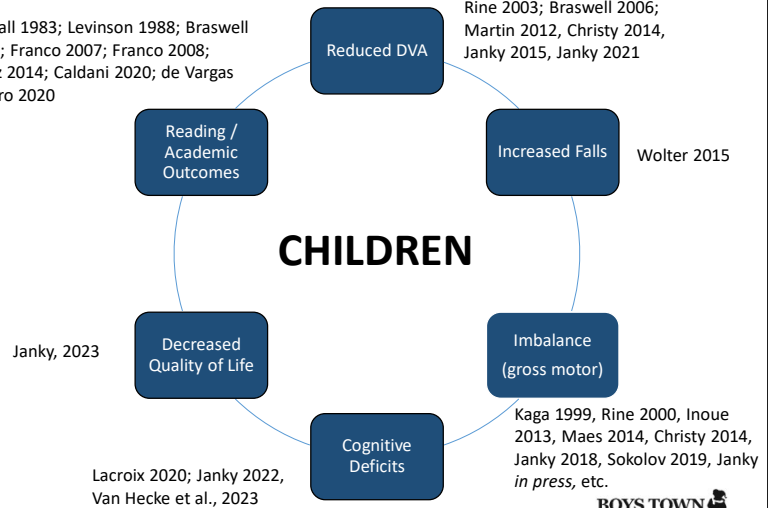
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# The effects of vestibular loss in CHILDREN are not well established



Snashall 1983; Levinson 1988; Braswell 2006a; Franco 2007; Franco 2008; Tomaz 2014; Caldani 2020; de Vargas Romero 2020

Rine 2003; Braswell 2006; Martin 2012, Christy 2014, Janky 2015, Janky 2021



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## Dizziness and Imbalance Across the Lifespan: Findings of a Pediatric and Adult Vestibular Clinic

Alana L. Ferreira, BA<sup>1\*</sup>, Alanna M. Windsor, MD<sup>2\*</sup>, Tiffany P. Hwa, MD<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Y. Wang, BS<sup>1</sup>, Erin W. Field, PA-C<sup>3</sup>, Michael J. Ruckenstein, MD<sup>1</sup>, and Robert C. O'Reilly, MD<sup>1,3</sup>

The study of vestibular and balance disorders in children and adolescents, especially, is still developing compared with that of adults. Nonetheless, early diagnosis of these conditions in children may prompt recognition of and remediation for the known impact of vestibular disorders on gross motor development, learning, cognitive skills, and school performance.<sup>5-11</sup>



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Which children are at risk for vestibular involvement?



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## Prevalence of Vestibular and Balance Disorders in Children

*Otology & Neurology*  
31:1441-1444 © 2010, Otology & Neurology, Inc.

\*Robert C. O'Reilly, †Thierry Morlet, \*Brian D. Nicholas, ‡Gary Josephson, ‡Drew Horlbeck, §Larry Lundy, and ||Amel Mercado

- Reviewed 561,151 patient encounters
  - 2,546 (0.45%) were diagnosed with a balance disorder
    - 159 (6.2%) peripheral vestibular disorders
      - Odds ratio: 43 times more likely to have SNHL
    - 109 (4.1%) central involvement was diagnosed
      - Odds ratio: 16 times more likely to have headache
    - 2,283 (90%) unspecified dizziness

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## Epidemiology of Dizziness and Balance Problems in Children in the United States: A Population-Based Study

Chuan-Ming Li, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Howard J. Hoffman, MA<sup>1</sup>, Bryan K. Ward, MD<sup>2</sup>, Helen S. Cohen, EdD, OTR<sup>3</sup>,  
and Rose Marie Rine, PT, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>

(*J Pediatr* 2016;171:240-7).

- Parents were asked if during the past year their child was bothered by symptoms of dizziness and balance problems (10, 954)
  - Prevalence 5.3% (female: 5.7%, males 5.0%)
  - Prevalence increased with age
- Associations:
  - Hearing loss increased the risk of dizziness and balance by 4.8
  - Difficulty seeing increased the risk of dizziness and balance by 3



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## Dizziness and Imbalance Across the Lifespan: Findings of a Pediatric and Adult Vestibular Clinic

Alana L. Ferreira, BA<sup>1\*</sup>, Alanna M. Windsor, MD<sup>2\*</sup>,  
Tiffany P. Hwa, MD<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Y. Wang, BS<sup>1</sup>,  
Erin W. Field, PA-C<sup>3</sup>, Michael J. Ruckenstein, MD<sup>1</sup>, and  
Robert C. O'Reilly, MD<sup>1,3</sup>

- The proportion of peripheral vestibular disorders increased with age, peaking at 32% in ages 61 to 70; however, central disorders outnumber peripheral vestibular disorders

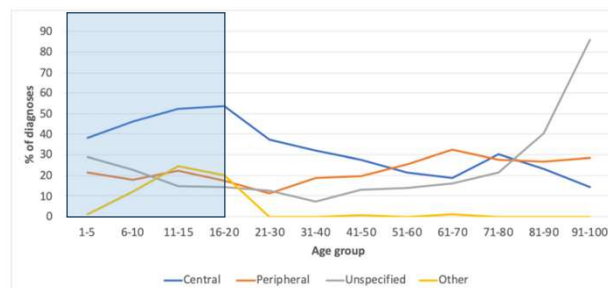


Figure 2. Distribution of diagnosis categories (central, peripheral, unspecified, or other) for each age group.



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### Dizziness and Imbalance Across the Lifespan: Findings of a Pediatric and Adult Vestibular Clinic

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- Vestibular migraine was the most common pathologic diagnosis in ages 6 to 20 (n = 110, 39%) and 31 and 50 (n = 69, 17%) regardless of gender, but was more prevalent in females (21% vs 14%; P < .0001)

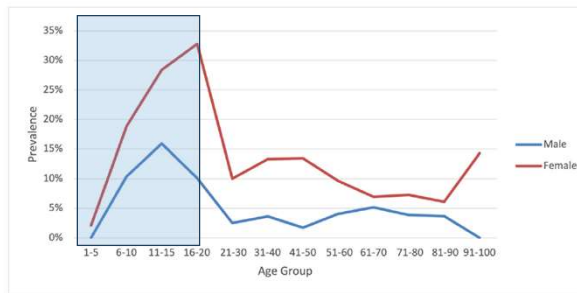


Figure 3. Prevalence of vestibular migraine by age group and gender.



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### Dizziness and Imbalance Across the Lifespan: Findings of a Pediatric and Adult Vestibular Clinic

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- Children get the same diagnoses as adults but the prevalence of each varies

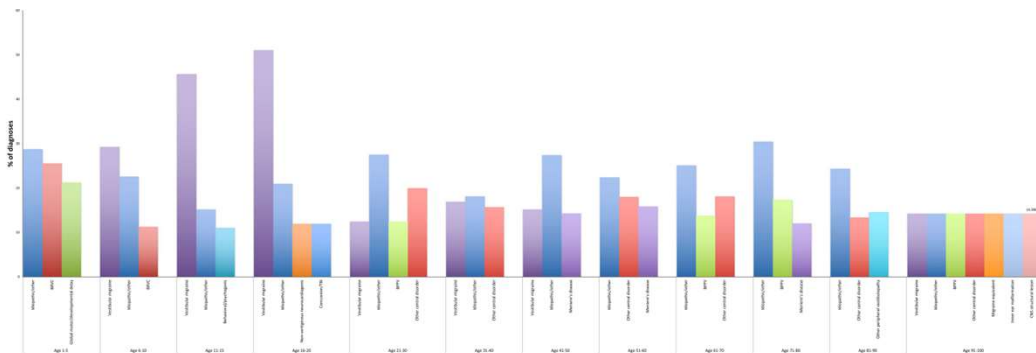
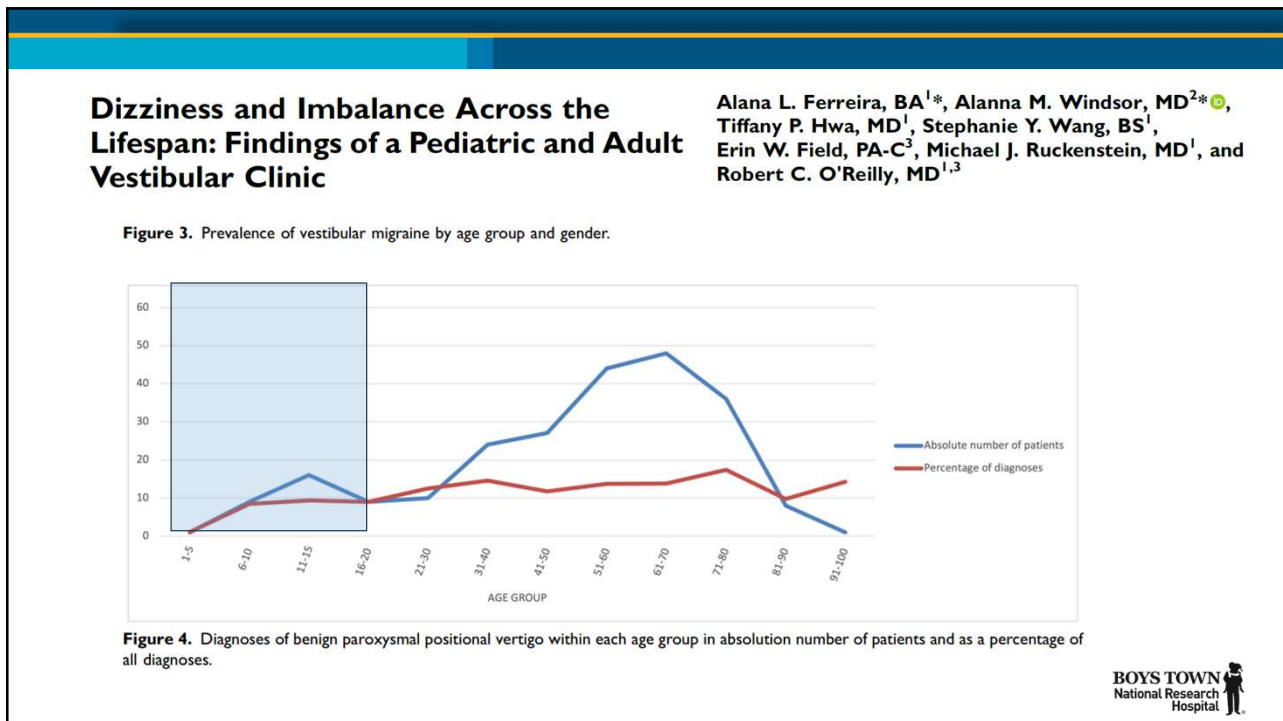


Figure 1. Graph of the top 3 diagnoses for each age group and their prevalence within each age group (% of diagnoses). BPPV, benign paroxysmal positional vertigo; BRVC, benign recurrent vertigo of childhood; TBI, traumatic brain injury.

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## Epidemiological studies tell us that there are at least 2 categories of kids at risk for vestibular loss:

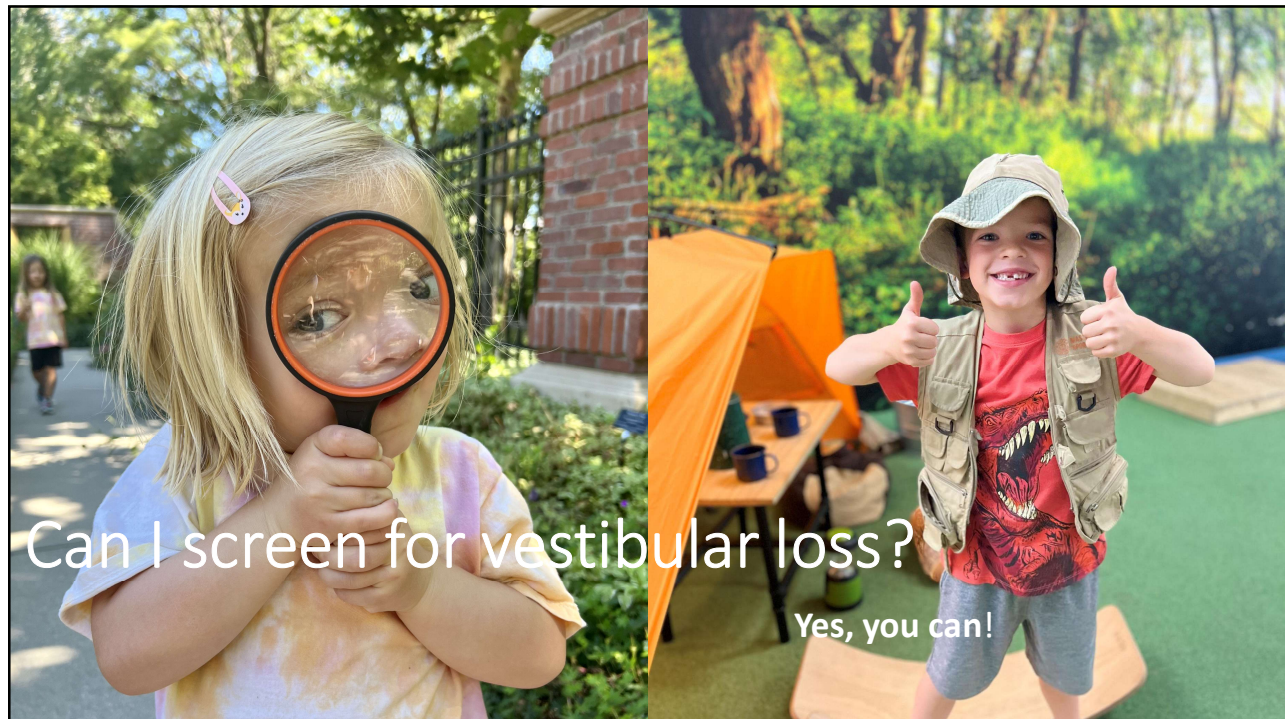
### **Kids who complain of dizziness**

- Children can develop similar etiologies of vestibular loss and thus similar symptoms as adults, including dizziness, imbalance, falls, and hearing loss
- Prevalence mix varies
- Primary: Vestibular Migraine

### **Kids with Hearing Loss**

- Are all children with hearing loss at equal risk for vestibular loss?

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Can I screen for vestibular loss?

Yes, you can!

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# 1. Complaint of Dizziness



*Journal of Vestibular Research* 33 (2023) 4  
DOI: 10.1097/JOR.0000000000000080

**Vestibular migraine and recurrent vertigo of childhood: Diagnostic criteria consensus document of the Classification Committee of Vestibular Disorders of the Bárány Society and the International Headache Society**

Raymond van de Berg<sup>1</sup>, Josine Widdershoven<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Bisdorff<sup>2</sup>, Stefan Everst<sup>3,4</sup>, Silvester Weimar Vachon<sup>5</sup>, Sharon L. Cutting<sup>6</sup>, Kenneth J. Mack<sup>7</sup>, Ji Soo Kim<sup>8</sup>, Klaus Jahn<sup>9</sup>, Michael Strupp<sup>10</sup> and Thomas Lempert<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
<sup>2</sup>Clusper de Vrijer, Centre Hospitalier Euzé Méryck, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Neurology, Krankenhaus Ludwigsberg, Crippenbüttel, Germany  
<sup>4</sup>Medical Faculty, University of Münster, Münster, Germany  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University pediatric hospital Robert Debré, Paris, France  
<sup>6</sup>Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
<sup>7</sup>Division of Child and Adolescent Neurology, Mass Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA  
<sup>8</sup>Department of Neurology, Richter Center Clinical Neuroscience Center Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seoul National University College of Medicine, South Korea  
<sup>9</sup>Department of Neurology, Schöner Clinic, Bad Aibling, Germany  
<sup>10</sup>German Center for Vertigo and Balance Disorders, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany  
<sup>11</sup>Department of Neurology, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany

Received 1 June 2020  
Accepted 19 November 2020

**Abstract:** This paper describes the diagnostic criteria for “Vestibular Migraine of Childhood”, “probable Vestibular Migraine of Childhood” and “Recurrent Vertigo of Childhood” as put forth by the Committee for the Classification of Vestibular Disorders of the Bárány Society (BVDS) and the Migraine Classification subcommittee of the International Headache Society. Migraine plays an important role as a cause of vertigo of children with recurrent vertigo. In this classification paper a spectrum of these disorders is described in which the migraine component varies from absent to present. These four disorders

\*Corresponding author: Raymond van de Berg, Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, The Netherlands. E-mail: r.van.de.berg@maastrichtuniversity.nl

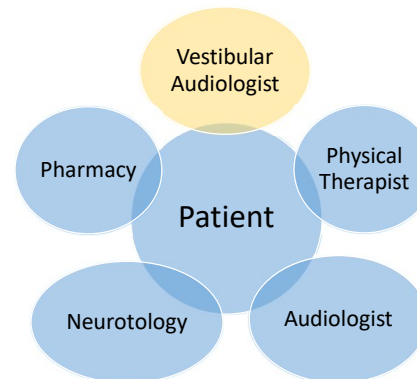
ISSN 0967-4271/23/33-04-2023 - The authors. Published by IOS Press. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY-NC 4.0).



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# Etiologies of dizziness in children by prevalence

- Vestibular Migraine
- Vestibular Neuritis
- OME
- SNHL
  - Cochleovestibular anomaly
  - CMV
- Concussion
- Psychogenic
- 3PD
- BPPV
- Meniere’s disease
- Orthostasis
- CNS [seizure, CPA tumor, autoimmune, syncope]
- SSCD



\*Manuel of Pediatric Vestibular Disorders



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## 2. SNHL is a risk factor for vestibular loss

(Verbecque et al 2017)

- Children are more likely to have vestibular loss with:
  - Severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss (Janky et al., 2018; Martens et al., 2022)
- And with specific etiologies of hearing loss:
  - Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection (30 – 60%)
  - Auditory Neuropathy (show decline in function over time)
  - Waardenburg Syndrome (up to 70/80%)
  - Rubella (30 – 40%)
  - Pendred Syndrome
  - Malformations (depends on severity of malformation)
  - Meningitis (~100%, depends on rate sensor)
  - Ototoxicity
  - Usher Syndrome (~100%, depends on type)
  - Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (42 – 91%)

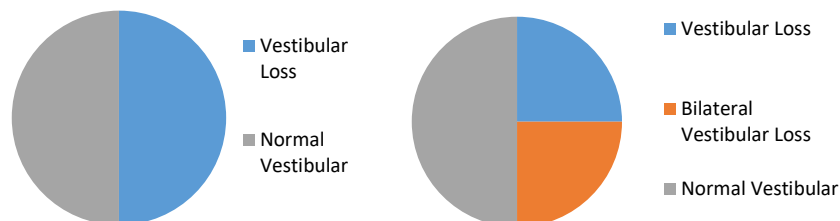
Hearing loss etiology is unknown in ~ 35 – 42% of cases (Sokolov 2019, Cushing 2019) and not all etiologies result in complete vestibular loss (Cushing 2019), suggesting etiology alone is not a sufficient predictor of vestibular loss.



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## Not all children with HL have vestibular loss

- Specific to children with CI
  - 50% have some degree of vestibular loss
  - 20 – 30% have bilateral loss
    - Jacot et al. (2009), Jin et al. (2006), Cushing et al (2013), Janky et al. (2015)



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### Vestibular End-Organ Dysfunction in Children With Sensorineural Hearing Loss and Cochlear Implants: An Expanded Cohort and Etiologic Assessment

*Otology & Neurotology*

\*†Sharon L. Cushing, \*†Karen A. Gordon, †‡John A. Rutka, \*†Adrian L. James, and \*†Blake C. Papsin

**50% of children pre-CI have some degree of vestibular loss – 30 % have bilateral loss**

	HORIZONTAL CANAL FUNCTION			SACCULAR FUNCTION	
	CALORIC	ROTATIONAL	VEMP	Unilateral	Bilateral
	Normal	Abnormal	Areflexia	Normal	Abnormal
<b>MENINGITIS</b>					
<b>ABNORMAL COCHLEA</b>					
<b>CONNEXIN 26 (homozygous)</b>					
<b>OTHER</b>					
<b>UNKNOWN</b>					

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## Children are more likely to have vestibular loss if:

AJA

Research Article

### Predictive Factors for Vestibular Loss in Children With Hearing Loss

Kristen L. Janky,<sup>a</sup> Megan L. A. Thomas,<sup>a</sup> Robin R. High,<sup>b</sup> Kendra K. Schmid,<sup>b</sup> and Oluwaseye Ayoola Ogun<sup>c</sup>

- Bilateral pure tone average (250, 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz) is greater than:
  - CUT-OFF SCORE: 40 dB, sensitivity = 80%, specificity = 55%
  - CUT-OFF SCORE: **66 dB**, sensitivity = 33%, specificity = 91%

Pure Tone Average (PTA)

Vestibular Loss Groups

□ CI  
■ NSG

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## Three Years of Vestibular Infant Screening in Infants With Sensorineural Hearing Loss

**To cite:** Martens S, Dhooge I, Dhondt C, et al. Three Years of Vestibular Infant Screening in Infants With Sensorineural Hearing Loss. *Pediatrics*. 2022;150(1):e2021055340

Sarie Martens, MSc,<sup>a</sup> Ingeborg Dhooge, MD, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup> Cleo Dhondt, MSc,<sup>b</sup> Saartje Vanaudenaerde, MSc,<sup>c</sup> Marieke Sucaet, MSc,<sup>b</sup> Helen Van Hoecke, MD, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup> Els De Leenheer, MD, PhD,<sup>b,c</sup> Lotte Rombaut, MSc,<sup>c</sup> An Boudewyns, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Christian Desloovere, MD, PhD,<sup>e</sup> Anne-Sophie Vinck, MD,<sup>f</sup> Sebastien Janssens de Varebeke, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Dominique Verschuere, MD,<sup>h</sup> Margriet Verstreken, MD,<sup>i</sup> Ina Foulon, MD, PhD,<sup>j</sup> Charlotte Staelens, BSc,<sup>k</sup> Claudia De Valck, MD, PhD,<sup>l</sup> Robbe Calcoen, BSc,<sup>m</sup> Nele Lemkens, MD,<sup>n</sup> Okan Öz, BSc,<sup>o</sup> Mieke De Bock, MSc,<sup>p</sup> Lisa Haverbeke, MSc,<sup>q</sup> Christoph Verhoye, MD,<sup>r</sup> Frank Declau, MD, PhD,<sup>s</sup> Benoit Devroede, MD,<sup>t</sup> Glen Forton, MD, PhD,<sup>u</sup> Naima Deggouj, MD, PhD,<sup>v</sup> Leen Maes, PhD<sup>w</sup>

## Methodological aspects of testing vestibular evoked myogenic potentials in infants at universal hearing screening program

**SCIENTIFIC  
REPORTS**  
nature research

Luca Verrecchia<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Niki Karpeta<sup>1,2</sup>, Magnus Westin<sup>1</sup>, Ann Johansson<sup>1</sup>, Sonny Aldenklint<sup>1</sup>, Krister Brantberg<sup>1,3</sup> & Maoli Duan<sup>1,2</sup>

Comment > [Pediatrics](#). 2022 Jul 1;150(1):e2022056986. doi: 10.1542/peds.2022-056986.

## The Feasibility of Performing Vestibular Newborn Screening

Kristen L Janky<sup>1</sup>, Christine Yoshinaga-Itano<sup>2</sup>



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## Vestibular Loss Should be Suspected in:

- Children with **severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss**, which justifies testing all children prior to cochlear implantation;
- Children who pass their newborn hearing screening and **acquire hearing loss or have progressive hearing loss**; and
- Children with any degree of hearing loss and **concomitant gross motor delay** due to the known association between vestibular loss and gross motor function.



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## Children are more likely to have vestibular loss if:

AJA  
Research Article

**Predictive Factors for Vestibular Loss  
in Children With Hearing Loss**

Kristen L. Janky,<sup>a</sup> Megan L. A. Thomas,<sup>a</sup> Robin R. High,<sup>b</sup>  
Kendra K. Schmid,<sup>b</sup> and Oluwaseye Ayoola Ogun<sup>c</sup>

**A**

Age to Sit (months)

Normal Mild-to-Moderate Bilateral

Vestibular Loss Groups

**B**

Age to Walk (months)

Normal Mild-to-Moderate Bilateral

Vestibular Loss Groups

- Sat later than 7.25 months
  - sensitivity = 62%,
  - specificity = 81%

- Walked later than 14.5 months
  - sensitivity = 78%,
  - specificity = 77%

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Hospital

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## These values **do** overlap normal expectations:

- Sitting without support (3.8 to 9.2 months)
  - Age to sit > 7.25 months
- Standing with assistance (4.8 to 11.4)
- Hands and knees crawling (5.2 to 13.5)
- Walking with assistance (5.9 to 13.7)
- Standing alone (6.9 to 16.9)
- Walking alone (8.2 to 17.6)
  - Age to walk > 14.5 months

WHO Multicentre Growth Reference Study

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AJA

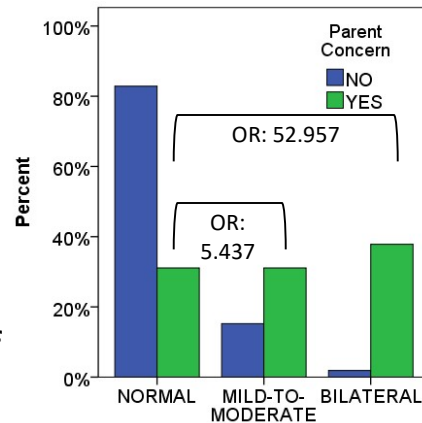
Research Article

### Predictive Factors for Vestibular Loss in Children With Hearing Loss

Kristen L. Janky,<sup>a</sup> Megan L. A. Thomas,<sup>a</sup> Robin R. High,<sup>b</sup>  
Kendra K. Schmid,<sup>b</sup> and Oluwaseye Ayoola Ogun<sup>c</sup>

“Are you concerned about your child’s gross motor skill acquisition?”

A significantly higher proportion of parents reporting concern for gross motor skills as severity of vestibular loss increased.



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## Single Leg Stance

- Stand on dominate leg with nondominant leg raised, knee bent to 90 degrees, hands on hips, and eyes closed for a maximum of 10 s. Timing is stopped if eyes open, foot is put down, or standing leg is moved
  - CUT-OFF: < 4 seconds, sensitivity = 90%, specificity = 100%
  - (Janky et al. 2022; Oyewumi et al., 2016)



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## Single Leg Stance

Age	Duration in Seconds (Eyes Open/Closed)
30–36 months	1–2
4 years	5
5 years	10/<5
7 years	15/5
9 years	30/15
11 years	30+/30

Modified with permission from Cushing et al.<sup>38</sup>



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## Bedside Head Impulse Test

- The head is tilted 30 degrees downward and high acceleration, unpredictable head thrusts are delivered in the plane of each horizontal canal
  - CUT-OFF: corrective saccade, sensitivity = 75%, specificity = 91%
  - (Christy et al., 2014)



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# Bedside Head Impulse Test

Positive for most caloric weaknesses > 40-50%



Caloric vs Head Thrust (Horizontal)  
 Perez N & Rama-Lopez J  
 Otology & Neurotology 24, 2003:913-917

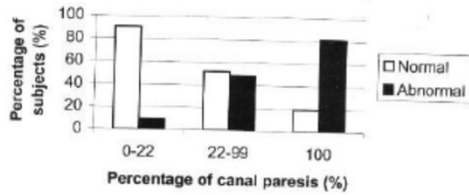


FIG. 1. Percentage of subjects in each group of canal paresis in which a normal (white bar) or abnormal (black bar) head-impulse test was obtained.

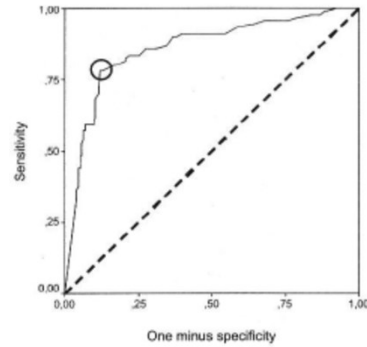


FIG. 3. Receiver-operating (ROC) curve for the canal paresis in the caloric test versus head-impulse result. The best cut-off point is 42.5 percent.

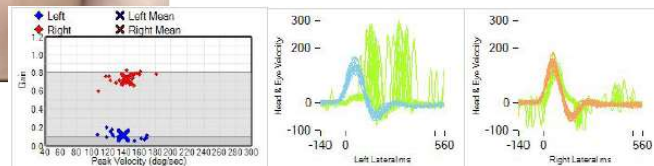


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# Bedside Head Impulse Test



Positive for most caloric weaknesses > 40-50%

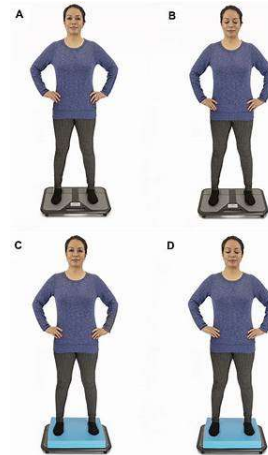


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## Modified Clinical Test of Sensory Integration on Balance

- Maintain balance with arms crossed against chest for 30 s while
  - (1) standing, eyes open;
  - (2) standing, eyes closed;
  - (3) standing on foam, eyes open;
  - (4) standing on foam, eyes closed.
- Maximum score is 120 s
- CUT-OFF: 100 s
- Sensitivity = 88%, specificity = 85%
- (Christy et al., 2014)



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## Modified Emory Clinical Vestibular Chair Test (m-ECVCT)

- Patients sit in a rotating office chair with the head centered and slightly flexed and eyes closed.
- Rotate chair right for 30 seconds at 0.5 Hz, using a metronome.
- After 30 seconds of rotation, stop the chair, place frenzels over the eyes and time the duration of eye movements
- Rest for 2 minutes or double the duration of nystagmus to dampen the effect of the first rotation.
- Repeat to the left.
- Nystagmus duration < 29.2 seconds (total) = possible vestibular loss

Reliability and Diagnostic Accuracy  
of Clinical Tests of Vestibular  
Function for Children

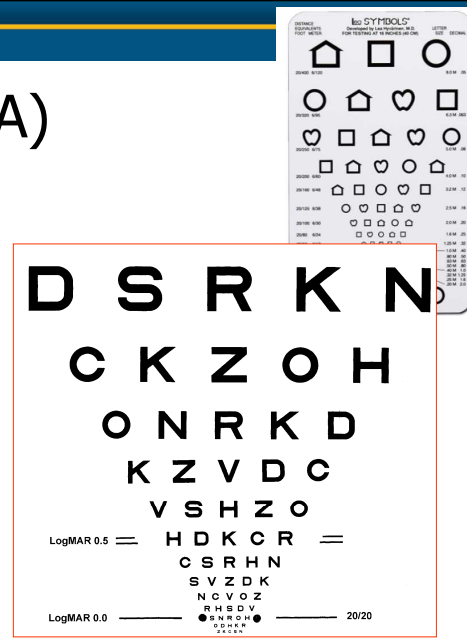
Jennifer B. Christy, PT, PhD; JoAnne Payne, MA, CCC-A; Andres Aguirre, PhD, MBA; Craig Fornby, PhD

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# Dynamic Visual Acuity (DVA)

- Comparison between static (head still) and dynamic (head moving) visual acuity
- Instructions:
  - Patient reads down eye chart until they miss one letter. One line above = static visual acuity.
  - Repeat while physically moving patient's head back and forth
- Interpretation:
  - > 2 lines suggests oscillopsia
  - 5-6 lines is normal for true bilaterals



## Reliability and Diagnostic Accuracy of Clinical Tests of Vestibular Function for Children

Jennifer B. Christy, PT, PhD; Johnnie Payne, MA, CCC-A; Andrea Apone, PhD, MBA; Craig Formby, PhD

### Quantitative Vestibular Function Testing in the Pediatric Population

Kristen L. Janky, Au.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup> and Amanda I. Rodriguez, Au.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

#### ABSTRACT

Quantitative tests of vestibular function include the caloric test, cervical and ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potential (VEMP), rotary chair, and head impulse test, either as the bedside or utilizing video head impulse test (vHIT). The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of how to perform these tests in children, including which tests are recommended based on the child's age and any modifications or considerations that can be made. A variety of clinical measures have been recommended as screening measures for vestibular loss, which will be reviewed. Symptom questionnaires designed to assess the functional impact of dizziness and vestibular loss in children will also be discussed. If a child's completion of dizziness or if vestibular loss is suspected (either by case history or positive screening measure), vestibular function testing is warranted. For vestibular function testing, children aged 0 to 2 years typically receive rotary chair, cervical VEMP, and vHIT if a custom system is available. For children aged 3 to 7 years, vHIT, cervical VEMP, and ocular VEMP are completed, and for children aged 8+ years, vHIT, caloric testing (if vHIT is normal), and cervical and ocular VEMP are completed. For all children, modifications to testing can be made, as needed.

**KEYWORDS:** Vestibular, pediatric, VEMP, vHIT, rotary chair, caloric

**Learning Outcomes:** As a result of this activity, the participant will be able to (1) list which tests of vestibular function are appropriate for children based on their age (2) describe modifications that can be made to each test of vestibular function to accommodate children.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Audiology, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska.  
Address for correspondence: Kristen L. Janky, Au.D., Ph.D., Department of Audiology, Boys Town National Research Hospital, 1517 N. 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68121 (e-mail: kristen.janky@btproton.org).

Corresponding Copyright to Pediatric Vestibular Assessment and Management, Guest Editor, David L. McCulloch, Ph.D., and Jennifer B. Christy, PT, PhD, *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, 2024, Copyright © 2024 by Thieme Medical Publishers, Inc., 353 S. State Street, New York, NY 10008, USA. Tel: +1(212) 514-6063. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1097/AUD.0000000000001001. ISSN 0734-4661.

Table 2 Screening Measures for Vestibular Loss in Children

Measure	Description	Cutoff score	Sensitivity	Specificity
mCTSIB <sup>a</sup>	Children maintain balance with arms crossed against chest for 30 s while (1) standing, eyes open; (2) standing, eyes closed; (3) standing on foam, eyes open; (4) standing on foam, eyes closed. Maximum score is 120 s	110 s	88%	85%
HTT <sup>a</sup>	The head is tilted 30 degrees downward and high acceleration, unpredictable head thrusts are delivered in the plane of each horizontal canal	Corrective saccade	75%	91%
ECVCT <sup>a</sup>	Children are rotated in an office chair with eyes closed for 30 s at 0.5 Hz. After 30 s, Frenzel lenses are placed over the child's eyes and nystagmus is timed	< 29.2 s	75%	100%
DVA <sup>a</sup>	Children read letters/symbols from an eye chart with the head still and again with head in motion (2 Hz or 120 degrees/s). The number of missed letters/symbols is recorded	10 optotypes	88%	69%
Single-leg stance <sup>b</sup>	Children stand on their dominant leg with their nondominant leg raised, knee bent to 90 degrees, hands on hips, and eyes closed for a maximum of 10 s. Timing is stopped if eyes open, foot is put down, or standing leg is moved	< 4 s	90%	100%
Tandem standing <sup>b</sup>	Children stand with one foot placed in front of the other, hands on hips, eyes closed. Timing is stopped if they take a step, move hands from hips or open eyes	< 8 s	95%	69%
Age to sit <sup>c</sup>	During case history, parents report age child sat independently	> 7.25 mo	62%	81%
Age to walk <sup>c</sup>	During case history, parents report age child walked independently	> 14.5 mo	78%	77%
Hearing loss <sup>d</sup>	Compute the bilateral pure tone average for 250, 1,000, 2,000, and 4,000 Hz	> 40 dB HL > 66 dB HL	80% 33%	55% 91%

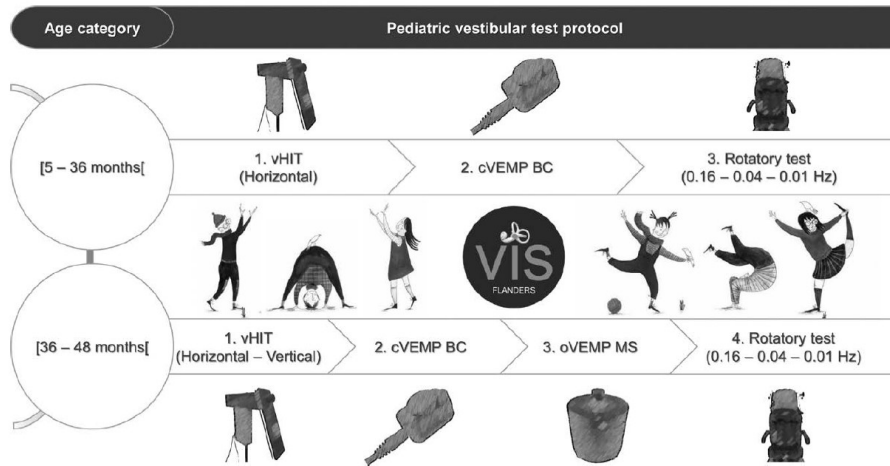
Abbreviations: DVA, dynamic visual acuity; ECVCT, Emory clinical vestibular chair test; HTT, head thrust test; mCTSIB, modified clinical test of sensory integration on balance.

<sup>a</sup>Christy et al.<sup>15</sup>  
<sup>b</sup>Oyewunmi et al.<sup>26</sup>  
<sup>c</sup>Janky et al.<sup>91</sup>



## Pediatric Vestibular Assessment: Clinical Framework

Sarie Martens,<sup>1</sup> Ingeborg Dhooge,<sup>2,3</sup> Cleo Dhondt,<sup>2</sup> Saartje Vanaudenaerde,<sup>3</sup> Marieke Sucaet,<sup>1</sup>  
 Lotte Rombaut,<sup>3</sup> and Leen Maes<sup>1,3</sup>



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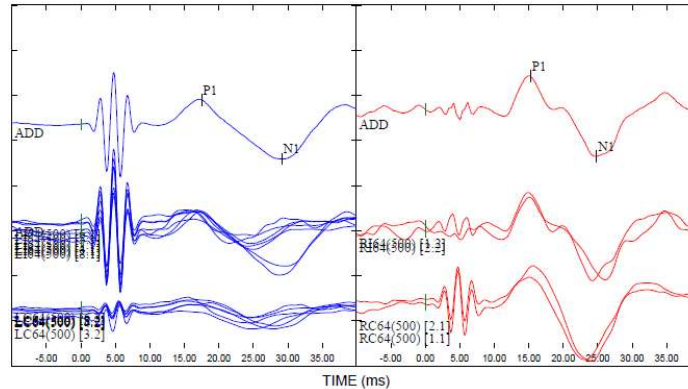
## Illustrative Patient Cases

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# Case 1: 20-month-old male with bilateral, mild hearing loss and **gross motor delay**

- Medical history is significant for Cornelia de Lange syndrome, born at 33 weeks, 20-day stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) due to intra uterine growth restriction, hypospadias, plagiocephaly, and torticollis.

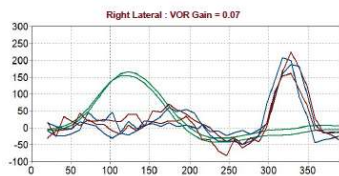
Cervical VEMP: age 11 months



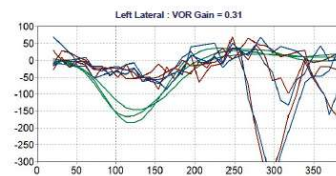
55

# Case 1: 20-month-old male with bilateral, mild hearing loss and **gross motor delay**

- Due to significant gross motor delay additional testing was recommended
- Rotary chair demonstrated normal gain with abnormal phase



Impulses		VOR		
Canal	n	Mean gain	$\sigma$	Asymmetry
Ant.	R	0		
	L	0		
Lat.	R	2	0.07	0.12
	L	3	0.31	0.02
Post.	R	0		
	L	0		

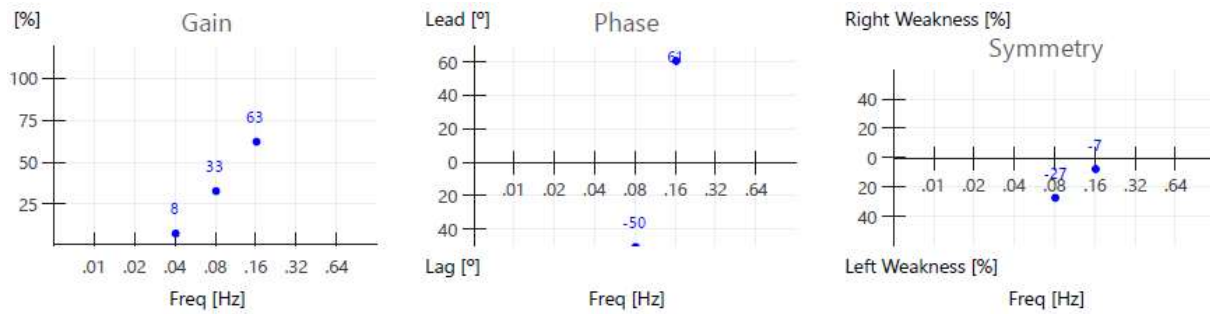


- This is a unique finding given the patient's mild hearing loss.



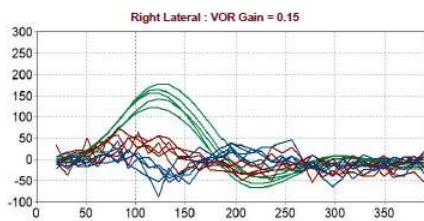
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**Case 2: 8-month-old female with bilateral, profound, SNHL.** Imaging showed **cochlear aplasia, cochlear nerve deficiency, vestibular dysplasia with enlarged vestibule, and poor development of semicircular canals**

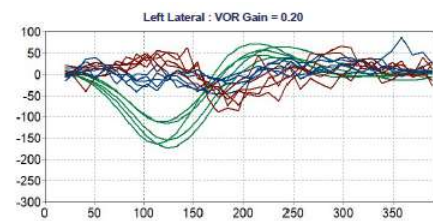


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**Case 2: 8-month-old female with bilateral, profound, SNHL.** Imaging showed **cochlear aplasia, cochlear nerve deficiency, vestibular dysplasia with enlarged vestibule, and poor development of semicircular canals**



Impulses		VOR		
Canal	n	Mean gain	$\sigma$	Asymmetry
Ant.	R	0		15 %
	L	0		
Lat.	R	5	0.15	
	L	5	0.20	
Post.	R	0		
	L	0		



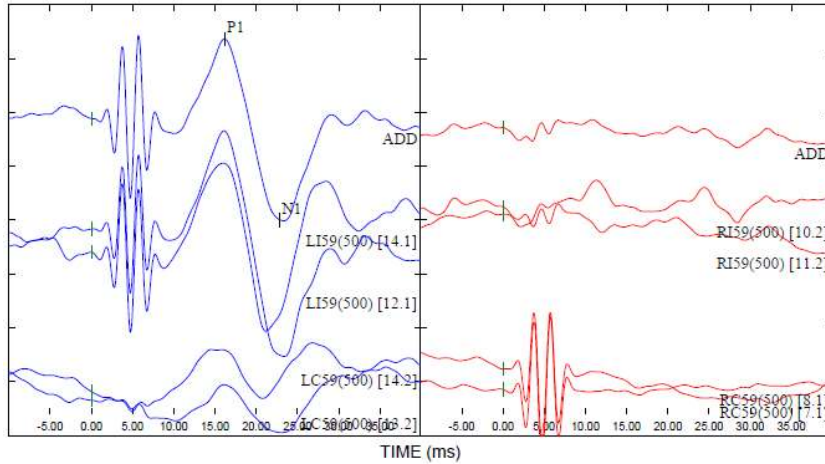
No corrective saccades. Ophthalmology diagnosed bilateral Duane's retraction syndrome



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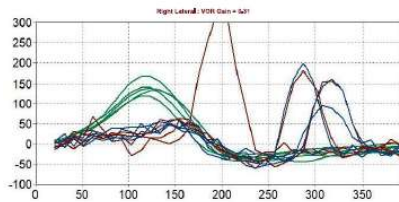
**Case 3:** 23-month-old female with **profound SNHL in the right ear** and normal hearing sensitivity in the left ear. **She sat independently at 8 months, stood at 12 months, and walked at 16 months.**

Absent cVEMP in the right ear

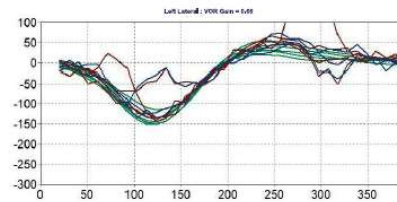


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**Case 3:** 23-month-old female with profound SNHL in the right ear and normal hearing sensitivity in the left ear. She sat independently at 8 months, stood at 12 months, and walked at 16 months.



Impulses		VOR		
Canal	n	Mean gain	$\sigma$	Asymmetry
Ant.	R	0		36 %
	L	0		
Lat.	R	0.31	0.11	
	L	0.66	0.38	
Post.	R	0		
	L	0		



Right vestibular loss confirmed with vHIT



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## Objectives, Revisited

After this course, participants will be able to:

1. List causes of pediatric vestibular loss and dizziness
  - Similar etiologies seen in adults with large proportion of vestibular migraine; different prevalence mix compared to adults, strong association with SNHL
2. List consequences of vestibular loss in children
  - Reduced DVA, reading acuity, cognitive outcomes, gross motor skills, and increased falls
3. List outcomes that can be used to predict the presence of vestibular loss in children.

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## Objectives, Revisited

- Dizzy
  - YES? **AT RISK**
- Hearing Loss
  - PTA > 66 dB? **AT RISK**
  - Acquired/progressive? **AT RISK**
- Are parents concerned for their child's gross motor function?
  - YES? **AT RISK**
- What age did your child sit independently?
  - > 7.25 months? **AT RISK**
- What age did your child walk independently?
  - > 14.5 months? **AT RISK**
- Single Leg Stance
  - < 4 s? **AT RISK**
- Head Impulse test
  - Corrective Saccades present? **AT RISK**


Other confirmatory  
tests like the  
mCTSIB, DVA, or  
m-ECVCT

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## More info...


**American Academy of Audiology Clinical Consensus Statement: Assessment of Vestibular Function in the Pediatric Population**

Violette Lavender<sup>Q2</sup>, AuD (Chair)<sup>1</sup> Kathryn Bachmann, PhD<sup>1</sup> Melissa Caine, AuD<sup>2</sup>  
Micheal Castiglione, AuD<sup>1</sup> Kristen Janky, AuD, PhD<sup>3</sup> Guang Wei Zhou, ScD<sup>4</sup>



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How to Complete VEMP Testing in Children less than 5 years old



### Quantitative Vestibular Function Testing in the Pediatric Population

Kristen L. Janky, Au.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup> and Amanda I. Rodriguez, Au.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>


ABSTRACT

Quantitative tests of vestibular function include the caloric test, cervical and ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potential (VEMP), rotary chair, and head impulse test, either as the bedside or utilizing videohead impulse test (vHIT). The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of how to perform these tests in children, including which tests are recommended based on the child's age and any modifications or considerations that can be made. A variety of clinical measures have been recommended as screening measures for vestibular loss, which will be reviewed. Symptom questionnaires designed to assess the functional impact of dizziness and vestibular loss in children will also be discussed. If a child complains of dizziness or if vestibular loss is suspected (either by case history or positive screening measures), vestibular function testing is warranted. For vestibular function testing, children aged 0 to 2 years typically receive rotary chair, cervical VEMP, and vHIT if a remote system is available. For children aged 3 to 7 years, vHIT, cervical VEMP, and ocular VEMP are completed, and for children aged 8+ years, vHIT, caloric testing if vHIT is normal, and cervical and ocular VEMP are completed. For all children, modifications to testing can be made, as needed.

KEYWORDS: Vestibular, pediatric, VEMP, vHIT, rotary chair, caloric

Outcomes: As a result of this activity, the participant will be able to (1) list which tests of vestibular function are appropriate for children based on their age; (2) describe modifications that can be made to each vestibular function test to accommodate children.

Journal of Audiology, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Contemporary Concepts in Pediatric Vestibular Assessment




### Pediatric Vestibular Assessment: Clinical Framework

Sarie Martens,<sup>1</sup> Ingeborg Dhooghe,<sup>2,3</sup> Cleo Dhondt,<sup>2</sup> Saartje Vanaudenaerde,<sup>3</sup> Marieke Sucaet,<sup>1</sup> Lotte Rombaut,<sup>3</sup> and Leen Maes<sup>1,3</sup>


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## Reading (& Cognition & QOL) Outcomes in Children with Vestibular Loss

Need 23 children with CI AND vestibular loss



Contact me if you have children with CI (age 8 – 14) AND vestibular loss that might participate!



<https://redcap.link/boystown-ci-research>

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**COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE CLINICAL OUTCOMES**



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**KEYNOTE** **Susan Scollie, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Director of the National Centre for Audiology, Western University

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# Acknowledgements



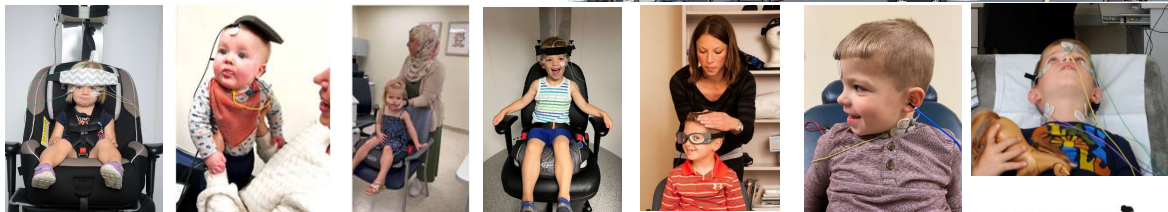
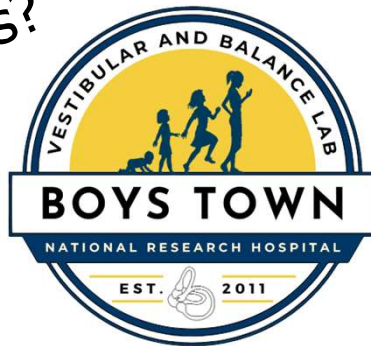
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Questions?



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