



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Communication Disorders Department -Audiology

Policy and Procedure

SUBJECT: BALANCE SYSTEM ASSESSMENT
Videonystagmography (VNG)

Policy No.: 410
Supersedes: June 1994
Revision Date: February 2022
Page: 1 of 2

PURPOSE

To outline the procedures for Balance System Assessment or Videonystagmography (VNG).

POLICY

Balance System assessment/WNG is used to assess and monitor the vestibular system (balance system) of the inner ear in order to determine if dizziness/loss of balance is caused by the inner ear abnormality. Following a physician order/referral, the audiologist identifies the patient's need for a VNG, performs testing when appropriate and collaborates with team members (e.g. PT) to manage balance dysfunction. VNG is conducted to:

1. Detect pathology within the vestibular or balance system.
2. Determine probable site of lesion.
3. Monitor change in balance function.
4. Determine the contribution of the visual, vestibular, and proprioceptive systems to functional balance.

PROCEDURES

1. Evaluation of the vestibular-ocular reflex (VOR) pathway usually consists of a battery of standard neuro-otologic tests. With infrared goggles placed over the eyes, the cornea-retinal potential is used to record nystagmus and other eye movements in response to the presence or absence of stimulation of the vestibular end organs and their central connections. VNG subtests may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Bithermal caloric tests
 - b. Dynamic positioning (Dix-Hallpike) test
 - c. Positional tests
 - d. Gaze test
 - e. Saccade test
 - f. Ocular pursuit test
 - g. Optokinetic tests
 - h. Failure of fixation suppression (FFS) test
2. Staff follow the Medical Center's established procedures in the event of a medical emergency.
3. Student externs and clinical fellows must be supervised by an audiologist at all times when performing a VNG evaluation.

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Page: 2 of 2**

4. Safety and Health Precautions: Staff comply with Rehabilitation Center and the Department of Health Services policies and procedures related to infection control (COD #425)
- a. Equipment is cleaned according to hospital guidelines and manufacturer's instructions.
 - b. An otoscopic examination and/or tympanogram is done prior to any caloric irrigation of the ear.
 - c. Power-operated instruments confirm to minimum ANSI safety requirements and manufacturer's standards.

Source: ASHA's Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Audiology (2006) (pg. 32-35).
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