

The horizontal vestibular canal

Rahko WRW test (Walk-Rotate-Walk) to the right and to the left

1. Show first, how it is done
2. One walks straight ahead with ordinary speed, rotates briskly on the left foot to the left 180 degree and returns back. The same is repeated on the right foot to the right. If there is no difference, repeat the same with closed eyes. This makes the test more sensitive, and is recommended.
3. The difficulty of rotating is compared. The more difficult rotation direction tells the side of affected vestibular canal.
4. The findings may be eg. The rotation is forced as if slowed. Hands may make helping and corrective movements. the rotation may be interrupted and foot is pressed fast to the ground already before 180 degree rotation. Stance of feet may get broad to support or one walks in arch; does not rotate.
5. The children often begin with the easier rotation direction. Because OCI is hereditary, testing parents gives a hint of the finding in children. The forward-backward reading disappears, the interspaces of words appear and clarity increases.

The superior, anterior vestibular canal

1. Show first, how the test is done.
2. The person to be tested stands opposite the tester feet together and bows forward 30-40 degree. He then closes his eyes and straightens briskly up. The position with closed eyes is kept for 30 sec.
3. This is repeated 3-4 times. During the last process the slow sway side is recorded, not the fast voluntary correction side.
4. Although the finding may seem small, it is significant. If this direction is not corrected, line jumping stays. Nearly always it is the same side as in horizontal canal. If not it supports bilateral finding.

The posterior vestibular canal

1. Show first, how it is done
2. The person tested sits on bed his back to the tester
3. He is lowered briskly down with head supported by the tester over the edge of the bed rotated to the left 45 degree somewhat down. Position is kept for 30 sec
4. The feeling of vertigo and nystagmus is recorded, Delay typically 10-15 sec.
5. The same to the right side