

**CLARIFY WHAT PATIENT MEANS BY DIZZINESS – Vertigo, Presyncope, Imbalance or Non specific dizziness?**

History		Examination	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age &gt; 50 years</li> <li>Prior history of stroke/TIA</li> <li>Cerebrovascular risk factors</li> <li>Recent head or neck injury</li> <li>Onset - speed and timing</li> <li>Duration and time course &lt; 1 minute or ≥ day(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positional or sustained</li> <li>Nausea and vomiting (50%)</li> <li>Headache (30%)</li> <li>Hearing loss</li> <li>Focal neurological symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eye movements</li> <li>Limb co-ordination</li> <li>Hallpike Manoeuvre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gait Assessment</li> <li>Otoscope</li> <li>Clinical assessment of hearing</li> </ul>

**Rotatory Vertigo?**

NO

- Presyncope
- Disequilibrium
- Lightheadedness

Yes

**Red Flags suggesting Brainstem Stroke or other central cause**

- Any central neurological symptoms or signs
  - Diplopia, facial weakness, dysphagia, dysphonia, limb weakness or ataxia
- New type or new onset of headache (occipital)
  - Common in stroke
  - Posterior circulatory (40%)
  - Think about vertebral dissection with Head/Neck injury
  - Vestibular Migraine (diagnosis of exclusion)
- Acute deafness (Sudden onset with vertigo suggestive of ischaemia of labyrinth or AICA occlusion)
- Vertical nystagmus

YES

**URGENT CT  
&  
REFERRAL**

No

**Do Confirmatory Tests “rule in” BPPV (Halpike) or Acute Vestibular Neuritis (Head Thrust test)**

YES		NO	
Positional Vertigo and torsional nystagmus fatigues in 30 seconds (positive Hallpike Manoeuvre)	Sustained vertigo and horizontal nystagmus. Not positional “Head Thrust Test” shows failure of Vestibular Ocular Reflex	Consider <b>Vestibular Migraine</b> (and treat and refer) if vertigo plus migraine is recurrent and examination is normal	Transient Unilateral hearing Loss or tinnitus, and previous episodes of dizziness
<b>BPPV</b>	<b>Acute Vestibular Neuritis (labyrinthitis)</b>		Consider <b>Meniere’s disease</b> and routine referral via GP

**HEAD THRUST TEST**

