Decision Tree: Concussion Exam - Vertigo/Dizziness

Describes Light-headedness with Position Changes or a Feeling of Fainting with Returning to Activities

- Test for Orthostatic Hypotension
- Extertional Testing
 Buffalo Concussion Treadmill or Bike test
- Measure intensity of symptoms during activities that are provoking
 - Visual Analog Scale

Describes Dizziness/Vertigo with Return to Activities

Central Screen

Characteristics of central origin nystagmus: Pure vertical, Pure torsional, or Direction changing

- Spontaneous Nystagmus
- Gaze Holding Nystagmus
- Test of Skew
 - If positive, Refer to ED

Describes Dizziness/Vertigo with Return to Activities

VOR Screen

- Head Impulse
 Test
- Head-Shake Test
- Dynamic Visual Acuity Test

Describes Vertigo or Room Spinning with Positional Changes

- Dix-Hallpike
- Supine Roll Test

Describes Dizziness/Vertigo with Return to Activities

Oculomotor Screen

- Saccade Testing
- Smooth Pursuit Testing
- Near point of convergence

Describes Dizziness/Vertigo with Return to Activities

Patient Reported Outcomes

- Dizziness Handicap
 Inventory (DHI)
- Activities Balance Confidence Score (ABC)
- Visual Analog Scale

*Consider irritability of symptoms to help select which test you should perform first



ANPT Concussion/mTBI Knowledge Translation Task force

Handout Created by: Naseem Chatiwala, PT, DPT, MS; Annie Fangman, PT, DPT; Michelle Gutierrez, PT, DSc; John Heick, PT, DPT, PhD; Ethan Hood, PT, DPT, MBA; Victoria Kochick, PT, DPT; Becky Bliss, PT, DHSc, DPT; and Pradeep Rapalli, PT, DPT

This is for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute and should not be used as a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis, rehabilitation, or treatment. Patients and other members of the general public should always seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional regarding personal health and medical conditions. The Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy and its collaborators disclaim any liability to any party for any loss or damage by errors or omissions in this publication.

References

