

BARANY TEST

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The Barany Test: Definition, History, and Clinical Applications

Introduction

The Barany Test, also known as the Rotational Chair Test, is a diagnostic test used to assess vestibular function. It is an objective tool that can be used to identify peripheral vestibular lesions and central vestibular disorders. The Barany Test has evolved from early pioneering work and is now used in both clinical and research settings worldwide. This article will provide a definition for the Barany Test, a brief history of its development, and a review of its clinical applications.

Definition

The Barany Test is a diagnostic test used to assess vestibular function. It involves having the patient sit in a chair that is then spun rapidly in a circular motion. The patient is asked to track a target with their eyes and an infrared video camera is used to measure eye movements. The test is considered positive when the patient's eyes deviate from the target or when there is nystagmus, or rapid eye movements, during the test (Karlberg, 2018).

History

The Barany Test is based on the work of Austrian neurologist Robert Barany. In 1912, Barany developed a method of testing vestibular function by having the patient sit in a rotating chair and tracking a target with their eyes (Barany, 1912). Barany's test was further refined by German neurologist Friedrich Schuknecht and American otolaryngologist Harold Schuknecht in the 1940s (Schuknecht & Schuknecht, 1944). In the 1950s, American neurologist George Hitselberger developed the modern version of the Barany Test using a rotating chair and an infrared video camera to measure eye movements (Hitselberger, 1956).

Clinical Applications

The Barany Test is used to assess vestibular function in a variety of clinical situations. It is used to diagnose peripheral vestibular disorders, such as benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, Meniere's disease, and vestibular neuritis, as well as to diagnose central vestibular disorders, such as vestibular migraine (Karlberg, 2018). It is also used to assess the effectiveness of treatments for vestibular disorders, such as vestibular rehabilitation and vestibular suppressants (Karlberg, 2018). The Barany Test is also a valuable research tool, as it can provide objective data that can be used to better understand and treat vestibular disorders.

Conclusion

The Barany Test is a diagnostic test used to assess vestibular function. It is an objective tool that can be used to identify peripheral vestibular lesions and central vestibular disorders. The Barany Test has been used in both clinical and research settings for over a century and continues to be an invaluable tool for diagnosing and treating vestibular disorders.

References

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