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# The Dizzy and Imbalanced Patient

## Part I: Differential Diagnosis

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Note to Participants: There are interactive pop-up questions throughout this lecture. If you choose to pause the lecture and return at a later time, a natural break time would be after answering the interactive questions. (You are able to pause at any time and the presentation will "remember" where you were. It's just a more natural time to pause after the interactive questions.) For your convenience, this outline reflects where/when within the lecture the interactive questions occur.

This lecture has 122 slides and is 137 minutes in duration.

### I. The differential process

- A. Four steps in the differential diagnostic process
  1. Create a list of possible or potential diagnoses that fit the history
  2. Determine if the patient is appropriate for therapy
  3. Differentiate central from peripheral, consider cervicogenic dizziness
- B. Step 1: Assess the possible causes of dizziness; organize using the mnemonic **TIM VaDeTuCoNe** (with example diagnoses)
  1. **T**rauma: TBI, cervicogenic dizziness; fistula, BPPV
  2. **I**nflammation (septic or aseptic): labyrinthitis, neuronitis, otitis media, sinus infections
  3. **M**etabolic: medication side effects, toxin exposure
  4. **V**ascular: VBI; orthostatic hypertension, atrial fibrillation
  5. **D**egenerative: BPPV; TMJ
  6. **T**umor: acoustic neuroma; brain tumor
  7. **C**ongenital: fistula
  8. **N**eurogenic: psychiatric disorders (anxiety); migraines, MS, TIA, phobic postural vertigo
- C. Step 2: Determine if patient is appropriate to treat: look for red flags
  1. Benign causes of dizziness
  2. Serious (refer for workup)
  3. Signs of systemic diseases, infections processes. vascular causes
  4. Central nervous system: new onset or undiagnosed; changing neurologic status
  5. Headache?
  6. Head is not firmly attached to neck: ligamentous instability
  7. Fractures ruled out
  8. Vestibular disorders not appropriate for therapy: undiagnosed central causes
  9. Peripheral causes

Notes

10. Tumor: acoustic neuroma, fistula
  11. Yellow flags (proceed with caution): psychiatric, anxiety disorders
- D. Step 3: Differentiate between central and peripheral vestibular disorders.
1. Central
    - a. Originate in the CNS
    - b. Nystagmus
  2. Peripheral
- E. Step 4: If it isn't central or peripheral, consider cervicogenic dizziness

#### Interactive Questions – slide 45 @ 39 minutes

- II. Postural control: mechanisms of balance, origins of impairments, common diagnoses
- A. Five components to maintaining postural control: All must be evaluated.
1. Input
  2. Afferent pathways
  3. Processing
  4. Efferent pathways
  5. Output
- B. Common vestibular system pathologies
1. Benign paroxysmal peripheral vertigo (BPPV)
  2. Menière's disease
  3. Labyrinthitis
  4. Ototoxic vestibular loss
- C. Vestibular ocular reflex (VOR)

#### Interactive Questions – slide 89 @ 97 minutes

- III. Imbalance in the elderly
- A. Falling is not an inevitable consequence of aging.
  - B. Multifactorial risks for falling.
  - C. Best tests for predicting the risk of falls

#### Interactive Questions – slide 119 @ 133 minutes