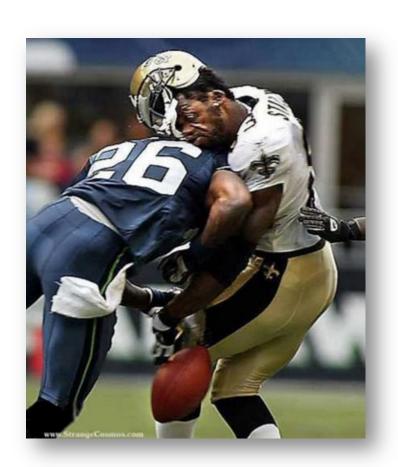
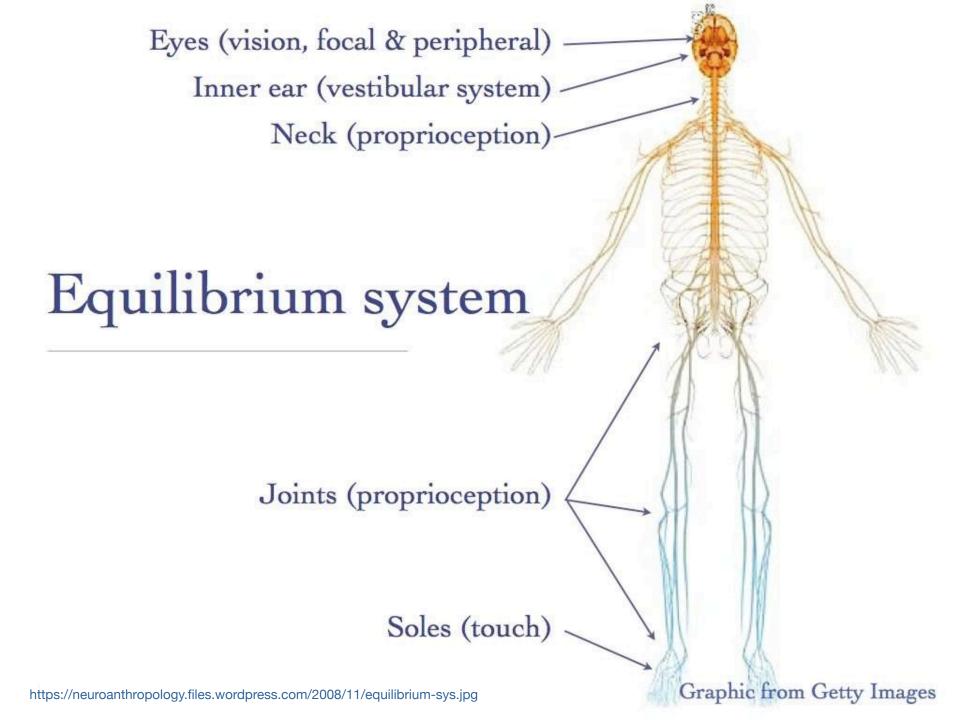
# Post-Concussive Dizziness: Concussion Recovery Program

Majid Fotuhi, MD PhD

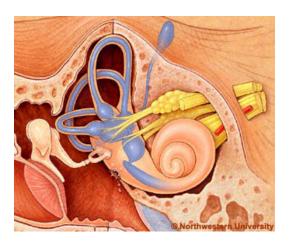
#### Post-Concussion Dizziness and Vertigo

- Affects 30-65% of patients with TBI
- Results in significant impairment in daily function due to:
  - Reduced balance
  - Fear of falls
  - Difficulty with eye-hand-head coordination
  - Difficulty to return to work
  - Risk for further head trauma
  - Inability to participate in sports or complete daily tasks
  - Avoidance of social engagements
  - Frustration, anxiety, depression

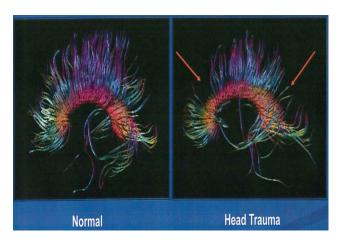




# Trauma to Inner Ear, Diffuse Axonal Injury, Cervical Injury

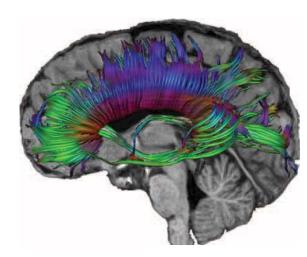


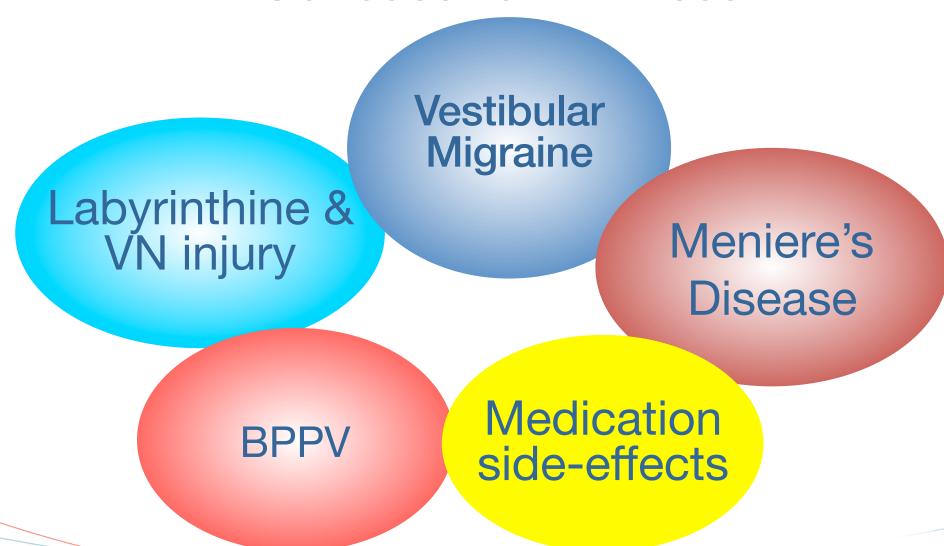






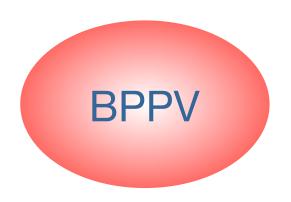


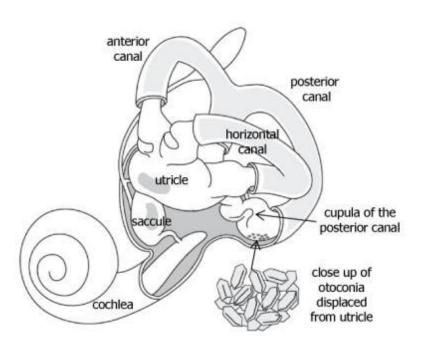




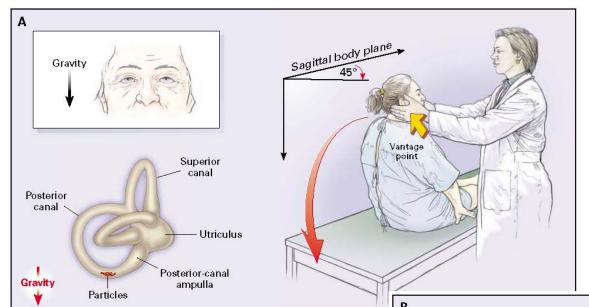
#### **BPPV**

- Vertigo in a specific head position (most often with looking up or turning in bed - less symptomatic with walking)
- "World spinning"—patient feels very nauseated and uncomfortable
- Symptoms stop when a specific head position is avoided
- Is easy to diagnose and

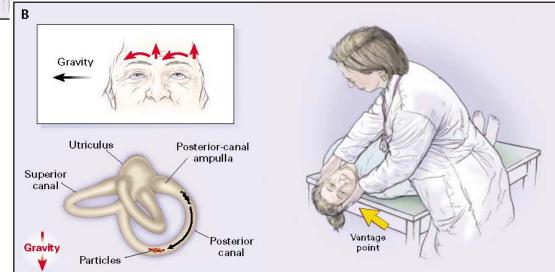




#### **Examination in BPPV**



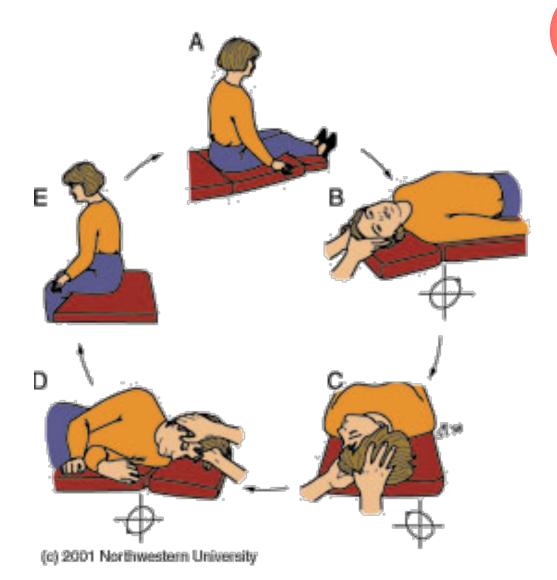
The Dix-Hallpike Test of a patient with BPPV affecting the right ear



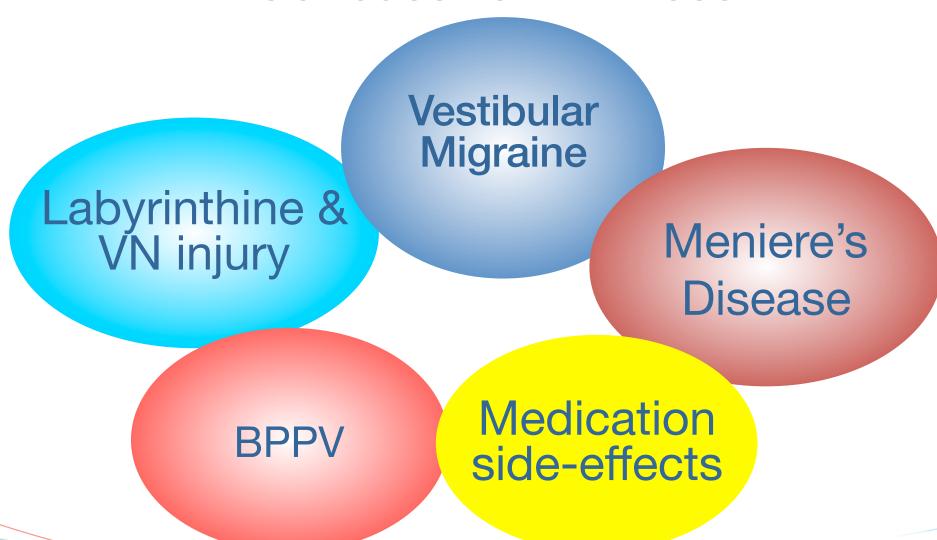
# Maneuvers to Diagnose and Treat BPPV



# Epley Maneuver



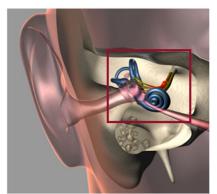


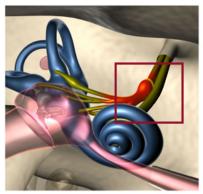


# Trauma to the Inner Ear or Vestibular Nerve

- Trauma to the semicircular canals or the vestibular nerve can cause disruption in the flow of information from the inner ears to the brain
- Acute symptoms of gait imbalance, veering to the right or left, vertigo with rapid head movements to the right or left
- Responds well to treatment with vestibular rehab







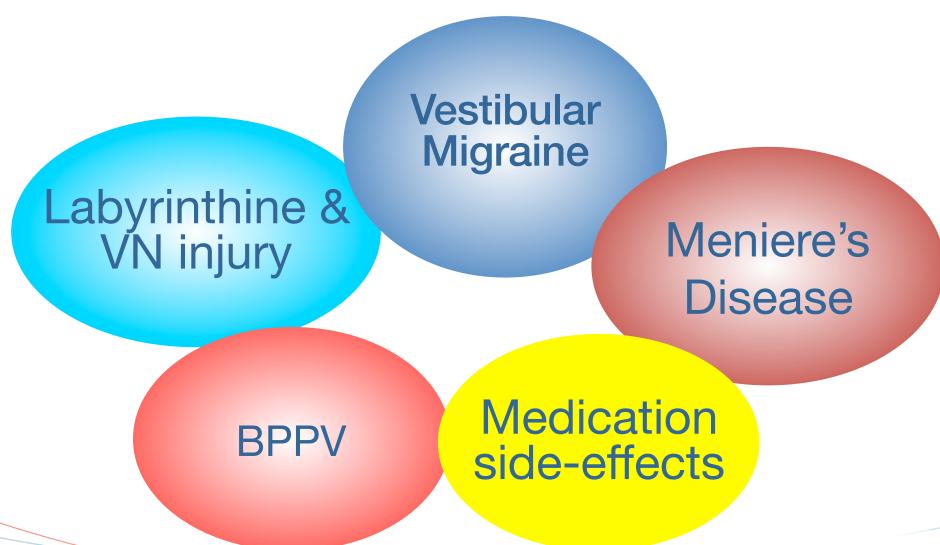
http://my.clevelandclinic.org/services/head-neck/diseases-conditions/ vestibular-neuritis

#### **Examination and Treatment**

- Gait imbalance (veer to one side)
- Difficulty with standing on either foot alone (falls to the same side on repeated testing)
- Positive head-impulse test
- Positive Fukuda test
- Normal hearing
- Negative Dix–Hallpike
- Vestibular rehab can result in complete resolution of symptoms within weeks to months



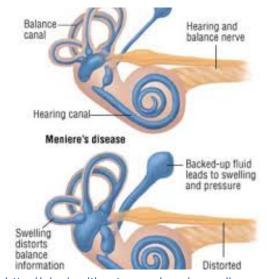




#### Post-Traumatic Meniere's

- "Glaucoma of the inner ear"
- Increased pressure inside inner ear
- Associated with fluctuating
  - Hearing loss
  - Fullness in ears
  - Tinnitus
  - Attacks of unprovoked vertigo, not positional
- Couple of hours at a time



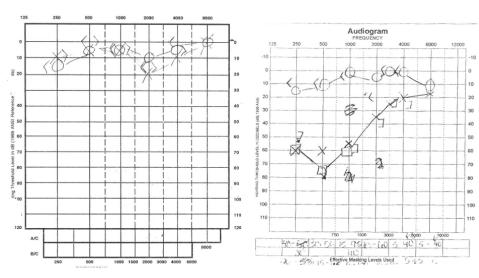


http://picnicwithants.com/menieres-disease/

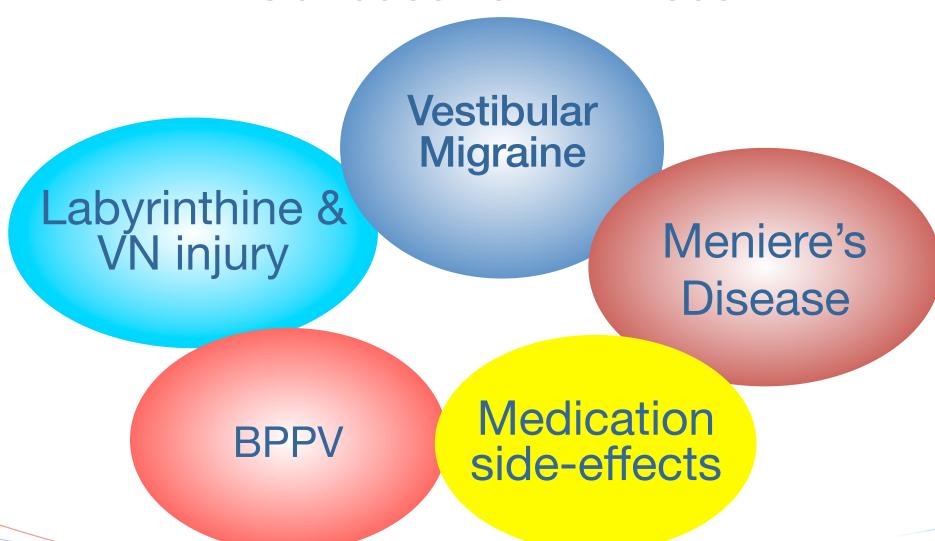
#### **Examination and Treatment**

- Unilateral LF hearing loss
- May have unilateral vestibular hypofunction (positive head impulse test)
- Normal gait (unless experiencing vertigo attack at the time of examination, in which case cannot walk at all)
- Treated with
  - Low salt diet
  - Acetazolamide
  - Clonazepam (for acute vertigo attacks)





http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/00/Menieres-hearing-loss.png



## Vestibular Migraine (VM)

- Most often underdiagnosed, attributed to anxiety
- Episodes of dizziness last hours to days
- Symptoms can range from frank vertigo (spinning) to a rocking sensation or disequilibrium
- Often associated with motion sensitivity
- Can happen with or without headaches, photophobia, phonophobia, and nausea

Vestibular Migraine



#### Examination in VM

- Normal
- Difficulty with focusing eyes, may have convergence insufficiency (trouble reading)
- Sometimes patients have evidence of unilateral vestibular hypofunction or spontaneous nystagmus (especially during the vertigo attack)
- Signs of anxiety and depression (in up to 40% of patients)

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#### Treatment for Vestibular Migraine

#### • Identify and address the triggers for migraine:

- Poor sleep
- Poor diet, certain food item
- Excessive noise, light, odors, people, or visual stimuli in the work/ home environment
- Stress and anxiety
- Lack of rest and relaxation

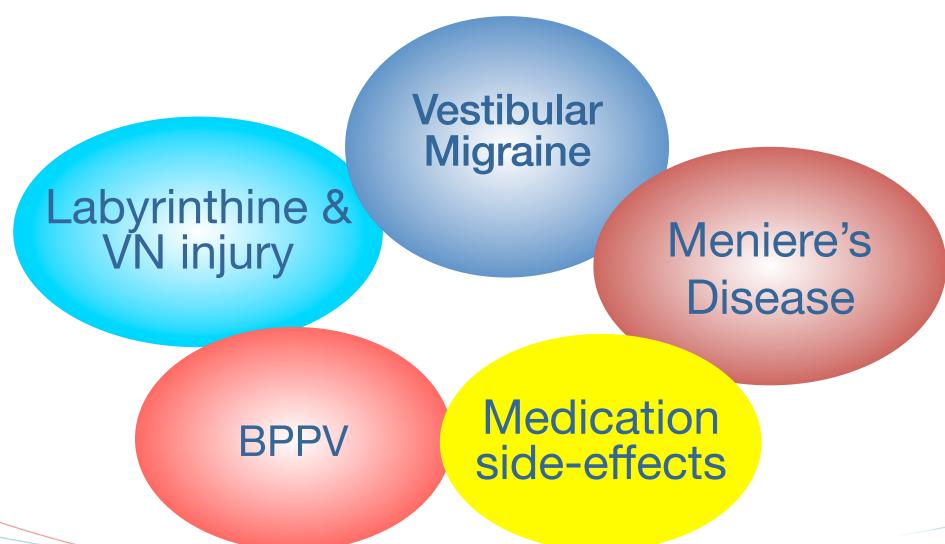
#### Treatment with medications:

- Topamax or other prophylactic medications for migraine
- Anti-anxiety medications such as SSRIs for 3-6 months
- Counseling, meditation training, or neurofeedback

#### Neurofeedback



- Performed by a certified EEG neurofeedback specialist
- Live EEG feedback is provided through auditory and visual responses to help the patient move brain activity towards an optimal state
- Very effective for treatment of migraine symptoms
- Benefits are long-lasting

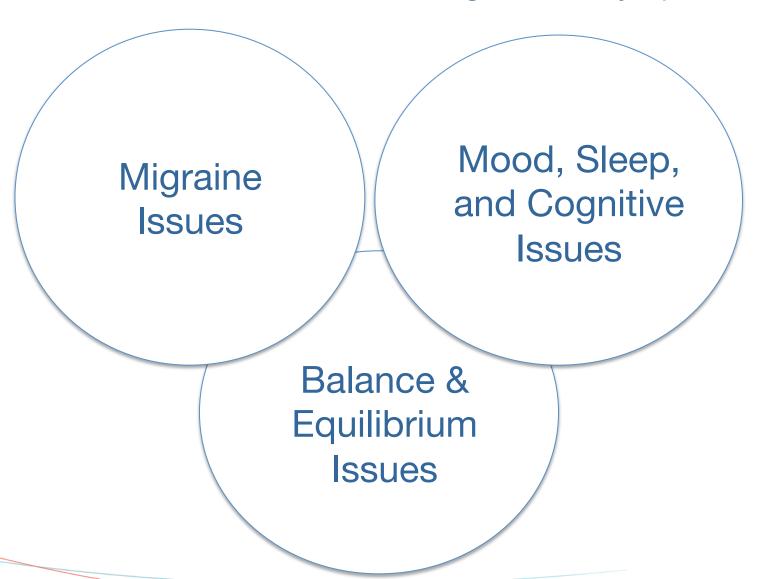


#### Why Some Patients Do Not Recover Promptly?

- Severity and frequency of damage to the brain
- Inadequate initial treatment of symptoms
- Fragmented interventions, without a coherent and systematic approach
- Depression, loss of hope due to persistent dizziness, with or without co-existing sleep, anxiety, and disability issues
- Loss of self-esteem, deterioration in lifestyle
- Secondary gain, legal matters

#### Concussion Recovery Program:

Treatment of Three Main Categories of Symptoms



### Concussion Recovery Program

#### Migraine

- Reduce exposure to triggering stimuli
  - Improve sleep
  - Prophylactic medications
  - Improve Diet & Exercise
  - Neurofeedback

## Balance & Equilibrium

- Careful examination by expert neurologists
- Equilibrium testing
- Balance and vestibular rehab
- Address coexisting issues (such as tinnitus)

# Mood, Sleep, and Cognitive Issues

- Meditation
- Counseling
- Improve sleep
- Medications
- Improve Diet & Exercise
- Neurofeedback

### Concussion Recovery Program

#### **Results:**

- Better balance & Equilibrium
- Awareness and understanding of disease processes and solutions
- Expect full resolution of symptoms
- Regain confidence
- Better sleep
- More hopeful
- Brighter mood



https://alum.mit.edu/news/QuickTake/Archive/200804/

## **THANK YOU!**

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