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The relevance of the vestibular system of the inner ear to human brain functions: Describing the pathological effects of vestibular dysfunction on the drain in patients managed in a Neurotological practice

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The Vestibular System is ancient contributor to Central Nervous System function, historically over 500 million years old. It has evolved to become more complex in Vertebrates. It provides precise information with respect to Gravity and Head movements which allows vertebrates to maintain balance and spatial orientation. In Humans, as in most Vertebrates, it provides such information to the Brain in concert with the Visual and Proprioceptive Systems with some contribution from the sense of Touch. Distortions, or loss, of vestibular inputs have been known, for centuries, to adversely affect balance. However, only recently, for decades, has knowledge surfaced indicating other effects on Brain function, particularly with regard to accompanying dysfunctions of the Visual, Cognitive and Affective Systems. The aim of the Presentation is to describe these adverse effects of Vestibular dysfunction as seen in a Neurotologic practice, and to provide literature describing these issues. The Presenter has concluded, rom his observations of patients, and his review of the literature that the Vestibular System provides information basic to Brain functions other than balance and spatial orientation. He hopes to inform and stimulate the Audience to consider the diffuse role of the Vestibular System in Brain function.

Biography

Lehrer received his M.D. degree from the State University of New York in 1956. He completed his Post Graduate education in the Specialty of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC, became Board Certified, and was on the Attending Staff and taught at the Hospital for 10 years before moving his practice to New Jersey. He has specialized in Neurotology, and is a Member of the American Neurotology Society, as well as other Societies in that specialty. His papers and letters to the Editor concerning Vestibular and Auditory Disorders have been published in major specialty and general journals. He has presented at National and International meetings on Inner Ear disorders and has served on the Faculty of Meetings devoted to Inner Ear disorders. His major focus at this point in his career has been on Vestibular disorders with regard to Diagnosis and Management of these disorders and their effects upon Brain Function.

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