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**Società Italiana  
di Vestibologia**

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**simeu**

**GENOVA 30 MAG - 1 GIU 2024**

**Se ti gira la testa...**

*Progetto Vertigo-EU*

- Patients with acute **VERTIGO** and **DIZZINESS** account for about 4% of all visits and 20% of neurological consultations in the emergency department (ED)

Newman-Toker DE, Hsieh YH, Camargo CA Jr, *et al.* Spectrum of dizziness visits to US emergency departments: cross-sectional analysis from a nationally representative sample. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2008; 83:765–775.

- About 10% of strokes are missed at first contact in the ED

Tarnutzer AA, Lee SH, Robinson KA, *et al.* ED misdiagnosis of cerebrovascular events in the era of modern neuroimaging: a meta-analysis. *Neurology* 2017; 88:1468–1477.

- In a population-based registry study, 90% of transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) in the posterior circulation (with vestibular symptoms in half of patients), were not recognized at first medical assessment

Atzema CL, Grewal K, Lu H, *et al.* Outcomes among patients discharged from the emergency department with a diagnosis of peripheral vertigo. *Ann Neurol* 2016; 79:32–41.

- Up to 25% of patients have a potentially life-threatening disease, including cerebrovascular and cardiovascular events, systemic metabolic, toxic, and inflammatory disorders

Royl G, Ploner CJ, Leithner C. Dizziness in the emergency room: diagnoses and misdiagnoses. *Eur Neurol* 2011; 66:256–263.

- The most frequent lesion localization is the cerebellum, followed by the pontomedullary brainstem

Shih WY, Wang AS, Pughland B, Hsieh YH, *et al.* Rising annual costs of dizziness presentations to U.S. emergency departments. *Acad Emerg Med* 2013; 20:689–696.

- In US EDs, about 40% of patients presenting with acute vestibular disorders undergo



## Frequency, aetiology, and impact of vestibular symptoms in the emergency department: a neglected red flag

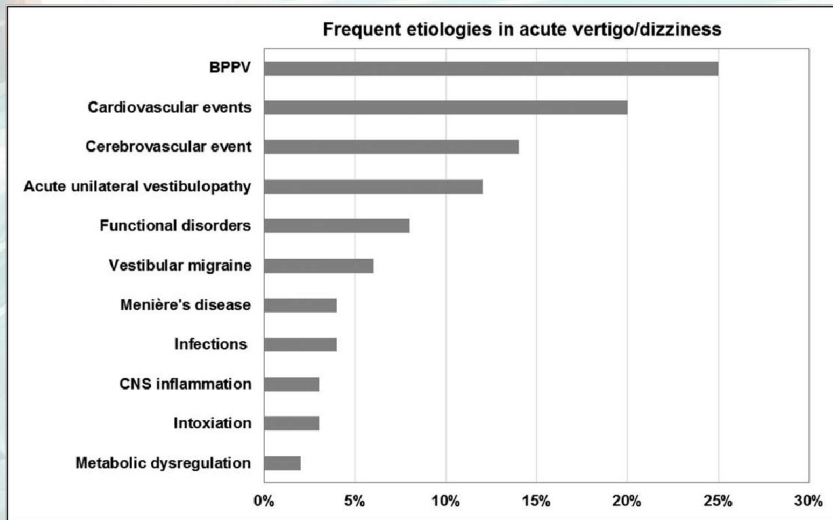
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**Results** We identified a total of 2596 visits by 2464 patients (11% of ED visits) who reported at least one vestibular symptom. In 1677/2596 visits (64.6%), vestibular symptoms were the main reason for the ED consultation. Vestibular symptoms were classified as dizziness (43.8%), vertigo (33.9%), postural symptoms (6.5%), or more than one symptom (15.8%). In 324/2596 visits (12.5%), cerebrovascular events were the aetiology of vestibular symptoms, and in 355/2596 visits (13.7%), no diagnosis could be established. In 23.8% of visits with vestibular symptoms as the main complaint, the underlying condition was life-threatening.





### Central vertigo

Ischemic stroke	27 (7.6%)
Hemorrhagic stroke	1 (0.3%)
Cerebral tumors	10 (2.8%)
Hydrocephalus	1 (0.3%)
Demyelinating disease	1 (0.3%)

### Other diagnoses

Benign positional paroxysmal vertigo	176 (50%)
Acute peripheral vestibulopathy <sup>a</sup>	56 (15.9%)
Migraine	19 (5.4%)
Vertebro-basilar insufficiency <sup>b</sup>	19 (5.4%)
Meniere's disease	4 (1.1%)
Miscellaneous	14 (4%)
Undetermined	24 (6.8%)

<sup>a</sup>Acute peripheral vestibulopathy included both vestibular neuritis and labyrinthitis.

Miscellaneous: included toxic or traumatic injury of the inner ear, pseudovertigo due to hyperventilation in anxiety disorders, superior semicircular canal dehiscence.

<sup>b</sup>Vertebro-basilar insufficiency was diagnosed when an ischemic etiology was clinically suspected but no new acute lesions were found at neuroimaging. As stated in Section "Materials and Methods," we included in the central vertigo group only patients with an acute cerebral process detected by head imaging.



## Vertigo and dizziness in the emergency room

Andreas Zwerga<sup>a,b</sup> and Marianne Dieterich<sup>a,b,c</sup>

whether it was a  
**first-ever vertigo**  
episode

vertigo **duration**  
(seconds/minutes/  
hours/days or  
longer)

**spontaneous or**  
**positional vertigo,**

**migraine**  
symptoms:  
headache, visual  
aura, photo or  
phonophobia,

**aural symptoms**  
(tinnitus/fullness/  
hearing loss),


**neurological**  
symptoms e.g.  
diplopia,  
dysarthria,  
numbness,

- the **head-impulse test**,
- primary-position spontaneous, gaze-evoked, and positional **nystagmus**,
- test of **skew**,
- pursuit and saccades,
- limb and gait examination for weakness or **ataxia**

- **vHIT**
- pure tone **audiometry** if hearing loss was reported



### Capturing vertigo in the emergency room: three tools to double the rate of diagnosis

Benjamin Nham<sup>1,2</sup> · Nicole Reid<sup>1</sup> · Kendall Bein<sup>3,4</sup> · Andrew P. Bradshaw<sup>1,2</sup> · Leigh A. McGarvie<sup>1</sup> · Emma C. Argat<sup>2</sup> · Allison S. Young<sup>5</sup> · Shaun R. Watson<sup>6</sup> · G. Michael Halmagyi<sup>1,2</sup> · Deborah A. Black<sup>6</sup> · Miriam S. Welgampola<sup>1,2</sup> 



**Stroke**

Volume 40, Issue 11, 1 November 2009; Pages 3504-3510  
<https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.109.551234>

**HINTs**

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**HINTs to Diagnose Stroke in the Acute Vestibular Syndrome**

Three-Step Bedside Oculomotor Examination More Sensitive Than Early MRI Diffusion-Weighted Imaging

ET AL.

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DOI: 10.1111/acem.14728

GRACE CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

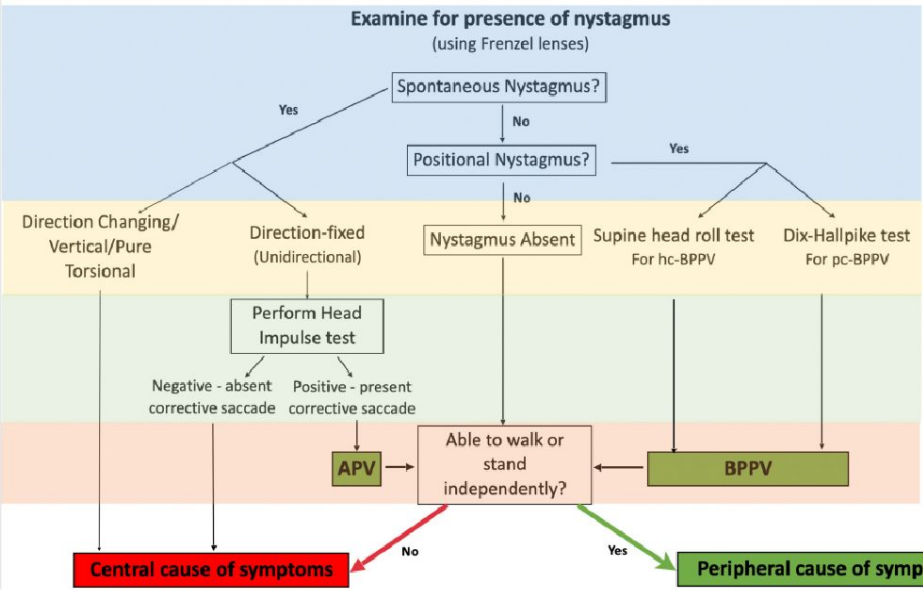


**Guidelines for reasonable and appropriate care in the emergency department 3 (GRACE-3): Acute dizziness and vertigo in the emergency department**

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**STANDING algorithm for patients with dizziness, vertigo, or instability**





# CONSENSUS DOCUMENT SIMEU-VIS

## DOCUMENTO DI CONSENSO SULLA GESTIONE DEI PAZIENTI CON VERTIGINE ACUTA NEL DIPARTIMENTO DI EMERGENZA

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<https://www.simeu.it/w/articoli/leggiArticolo/287/dir>



6 ottobre 2023



24 Novembre 2023



# CONSENSUS DOCUMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE ISOLATED VERTIGO IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

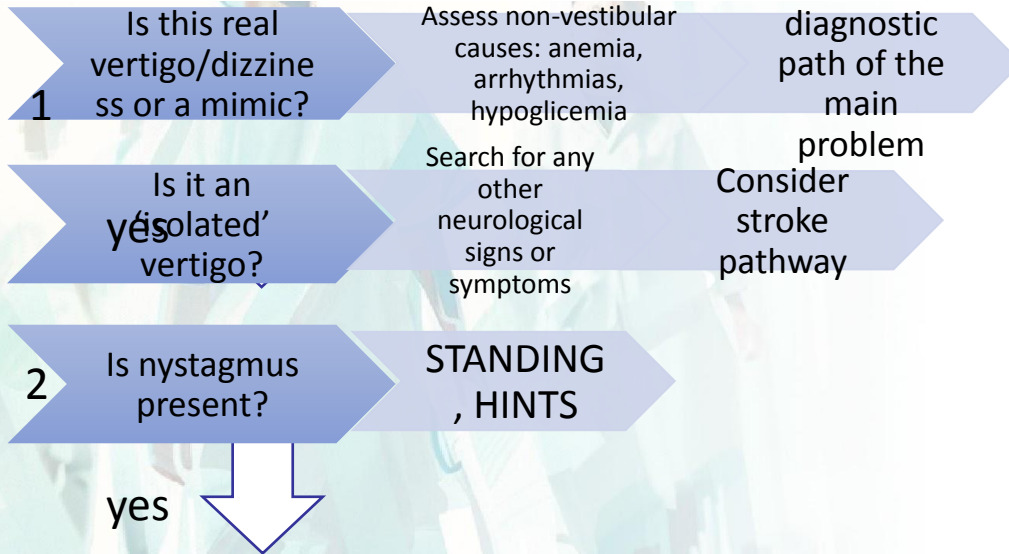
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# Key questions for a correct clinical approach



# Key messages

- In diagnostic algorithms, the anamnesis relies on the "timing" and "triggers" of vertigo.
- The HINTS algorithm (Head Impulse Test, Nystagmus direction, Test of Skew) should be applied to patients with acute vertiginous syndrome and spontaneous nystagmus.
- The STANDING algorithm can be beneficial also for patients reporting vertigo without spontaneous nystagmus.
- The STANDING algorithm recommends evaluating upright stance in all patients. Those unable to stand or walk unassisted have a high likelihood of central forms.



# Key messages

- The initiation of emergency neuroimaging should consistently follow a meticulous objective assessment, preferably utilizing validated diagnostic algorithms such as HINTS and STANDING.
- The routine application of non-contrast head CT for distinguishing central (stroke) from peripheral forms is not recommended, and it should not replace clinical evaluation. Always be mindful of the potential for "false negatives" in neuroimaging tests.
- In instances where acute central vertigo is suspected due to ischemia in the posterior circulation, prompt activation of the "stroke code" pathway is advised.





# Multiprofessional evaluation path of the patient with acute vertigo in ED

