

Pathology of the Nervous System with Considerations for the Physical Therapist: Vestibular Disorders

Course Description:

The vestibular system plays a major role in a person's ability to maintain clear vision during head motion. It provides the information to determine head position or speed and direction of movement. A primary disorder of the vestibular system can cause symptoms of dizziness and result in postural disorders. Determining the involvement and the problems associated with a client's vestibular dysfunction will guide the therapist in the appropriate intervention. This course offers the therapist an understanding of different types of vestibular disorders and pathogenesis for a variety of types of vestibular dysfunction. The course provides information on common clinical manifestations of vestibular disorders and describes diagnostic procedures and basic treatment strategies. Special implications for the therapist are provided, including examination and intervention considerations based on the PT Preferred Practice Patterns for vestibular dysfunction.

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Course Objectives:

Course Participants will be able to:

- A. Provide a general definition of vestibular disorders.
- B. Describe the location of lesions within the vestibular system
- C. Describe 15 common causes of vestibular disorder
- D. Describe the Pathogenesis of:
 1. Labyrinthine Dysfunction
 2. Canalithiasis and Cupulolithiasis
 3. Vestibular Nerve Involvement
 4. Disorders of Central Processing
 5. Motor Output Abnormalities
- E. Describe clinical manifestations of vestibular disorder including:
 1. Benign Positional Vertigo
 2. Acute Unilateral Vestibular Dysfunction
- F. Describe nine diagnostic procedures for vestibular disorders
- G. Describe basic treatments for several types of vestibular disorders including: peripheral vestibular lesion, BPPV, recurrent vertigo, Ménière's disease
- H. Describe prognosis for vestibular disorders
- I. Name PT Preferred Practice Patterns for Vestibular dysfunction
- J. Describe considerations for examination and intervention for the therapist.

CEU Approvals:

For information on specific state approval of this course, refer to PT On-Line Courses "About State Approvals" page.