

EXAMINATION OF THE CRANIAL NERVES

VIII Auditory

A. Vestibular branch -

Check for nystagmus (see under III Oculomotor, IV Trochlear, VI Abducens)

B. Acoustic branch -

Test environment

- Explain the test procedure.
- Ensure a reasonably quiet environment

Test procedure:

B. check their hearing from the external auditory meatus, either by whispering or by rubbing fingers lightly together.

Interpretation:

If you suspect reduced hearing acuity decide if the problem is one of sound conduction through the ear (conductive deafness) or conversion of sound into nerve impulses (sensori-neural deafness).

Rinne's Test:

Test procedure:

Place vibrating tuning fork on the mastoid and ask the patient to say when it has stopped. When the patient says the sound has stopped, hold the fork at the meatus, rotating it slightly.

Interpretation:

If the sound is still heard air conduction > bone conduction - this is normal and is also found in sensori-neural deafness. If not heard bone conduction > air conduction - the finding in conductive deafness.

- ❖ Quicker method - just ask patient which position is loudest.

Weber's Test:

Test procedure:

Hold vibrating tuning fork in the middle of the patient's forehead. Ask in which ear the sound is loudest.

Interpretation:

- It should be heard equally loudly in both ears.
- if sound located more on one side then conductive deafness exists on that side or the opposing ear has sensorineural deafness.
- ❖ ***Fast exam - Screening.*** Rub finger and thumb together 3 cm away from the ear. Only proceed to other tests if the patient cannot hear it.