

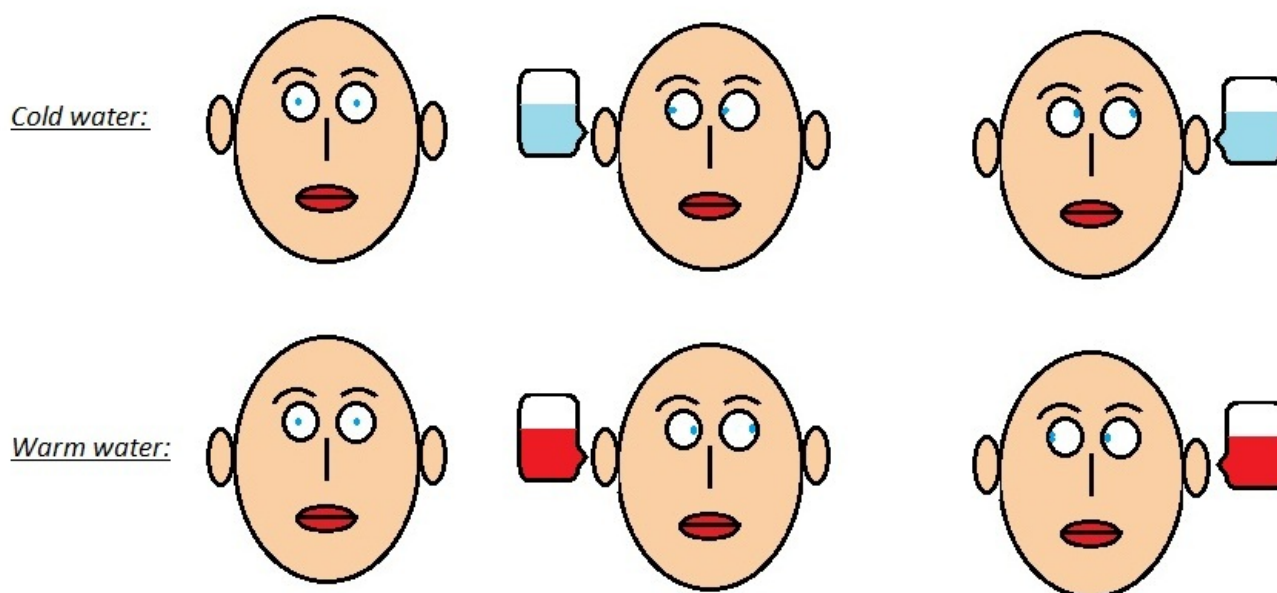
Vestibulo-ocular Reflex

Also sometimes called **caloric reflex**, because a stimulation is based on pouring of cold or warm water into the ear. It is better to put patient's head a slight reclining, because we want to influence especially lateral semicircular tubule of an inner ear. A small amount of water flow induces movement of *endolymph*.

Test can be sometimes false-positive if there is any other disease of inner ear. Normally we react just a little bit, because *nystagmus* in healthy people corrects the eyes movements. There is one special rule for direction of *nystagmus*: "**Cold opposite, warm same (COWS)**", which means that cold water pouring into the left ear leads to eye movement to the left and a direction of the *nystagmus* is on the right (opposite side). It is the same for the second side – pouring of warm water into the left ear leads to eye movement to the right and a direction of the *nystagmus* is on the left (same side).

Attention! Do not confuse the direction of *nystagmus* (COWS rule) and the direction of motion of eyes.

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Links

Related articles

- Oculo-cephalic Reflex
- Brainstem
- Cranial Nerves
- Vestibular System
- Nystagmus
- Inner Ear

Bibliography

- AMBLER, Zdeněk, et al. *Klinická neurologie : část obecná*. 1st edition. 2008. ISBN 978-80-7387-157-4.