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Vestibular-evoked Myogenic Potentials

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Vestibular stimulation by air-conducted sound (ACS), bone-conducted vibration (BCV) or by electrical galvanic stimulation elicits vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (VEMPs) that are now widely used to assess otolith function. Myogenic Potentials are distinctly different from neural potentials and they represent a modulation of the background firing of muscle. Without a baseline level of activation, a myogenic potential cannot be recorded.

Conventional cervical VEMP (cVEMP), which is a manifestation of the vestibulocollic reflex, involves measuring electromyographic (EMG) activity from surface electrodes placed over the tonically-activated sternocleidomastoid (SCM) muscles. VEMPs can also be recorded from the extraocular muscles using surface electrodes placed over the inferior oblique and inferior rectus muscles and these are called ocular VEMPs (oVEMPs). Today's lecture covers the VEMP findings in common peripheral vestibular disorders encountered in neuro-otology clinics.

Key Words: Vestibular-evoked myogenic potential (VEMP); Cervical VEMP; Ocular VEMP; Vestibular neuritis; Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV); Meniere disease

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