

The Hallpike test

- 1** Explain the procedure to the patient who is often understandably anxious about having their vertigo induced
- 2** The patient sits on the couch
- 3** The examiner holds the patient's head firmly and turns the head 45° to the side being tested
- 4** The patient is rapidly laid over the edge of the couch with head extended 30°
- 5** The patient is asked to look to the side while the examiner observes for nystagmus and asks the patient if they are feeling dizzy
- 6** The patient is then returned to the sitting position and the examiner again observes for nystagmus

Requirements for a positive Hallpike test

- Conjugate rotatory nystagmus and associated vertigo
- Latent period 2-20 seconds
- Nystagmus resolves in 20-60 seconds
- Severity of vertigo and period of nystagmus reduces with repetition