



# CHICAGO DIZZINESS AND HEARING

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## Information packet regarding hearing and balance testing at Chicago Dizziness & Hearing

Date of your test(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Time that your first test begins: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tests to be done

- Audiogram (CPT code 92557 and 92567) --- See Page 2
- Brainstem auditory evoked responses (CPT 92585) --- See Page 3
- \* Computerized dynamic posturography (CPT code 92548) --- See Page 3
- Ear wax removal (CPT code 69210) --- See Page 4
- Electrocochleography (CPT code 92584) --- See Page 4
- Otoacoustic emissions (CPT codes 92587 and 92588) --- See Page 4
- Rotatory chair testing (CPT codes 92546 and sometimes also 92540) --- See Page 5
- \*\* Tilt table testing with electrocardiogram (CPT codes 93660 and 93000) --- See Page 5
- Tympanogram (CPT code 92567) --- See Page 6
- Cervical vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (CPT code 92586) --- See Page 6
- Ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (CPT code 92586) --- See Page 7
- Videonystagmography (CPT codes 92540 and 92537 or 92538) --- See Page 7
- \*\*\* Video head impulse testing (CPT code 92700) --- See Page 8
- Other

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\*Posturography is covered by Medicare. It is not covered by most other insurance carriers.

\*\*Tilt Table is not covered by most insurance carriers.

\*\*\* Video head impulse testing is not covered by insurance at this time.

All the tests we do here help our physicians reach a diagnosis, and may thereby guide your treatment.

Please be aware that we carefully select which tests to run based on several factors, including review of your medical history (either from your intake questionnaire or from during your appointment). We do not simply run a “standard panel of tests” on every patient; rather, we try to select tests that we think are most likely to clarify your diagnosis, either by confirming the presence of a specific disorder, or by “ruling out” other disorders. Occasionally the results of a test will raise new questions whose answers will require additional assessment.

Note that most of these tests require some data processing after the test is completed, then additional time is needed for interpreting the results. Therefore we will not “have the result immediately” for you.

In most cases our physicians will write a letter to you describing the results and how they fit into your overall clinical picture. Please allow 10 business days (from the time the test is completed) to receive the results.

**Please make sure that you do not apply any eye makeup** for the day that you do any of the following tests: videonystagmography, rotatory chair testing and video head impulse testing.

**For several tests the results will be easier to interpret if you refrain from taking certain medications.** The tests are videonystagmography, rotatory chair testing, video head impulse testing and computerized dynamic posturography. Please avoid taking dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) or meclizine (Bonine) for 48 hours prior to taking these tests.

If you have questions regarding whether your specific health insurance plan covers a particular test, we suggest that you contact the insurance carrier directly and provide them with the common procedural terminology code (“CPT code”) for the test.

Below is information about each individual test. Please read about the tests you will be doing.

Test name:	<b>Audiogram (“hearing test”)</b>
Abbreviation:	“Audio”
CPT code for this test:	92557 and 92567
What is the test for?	An audiogram assesses a patient’s hearing in each ear across various frequencies (“pitches”). Sometimes this is used for diagnosing or monitoring specific hearing disorders. In other cases, information about hearing may be helpful in the diagnosis of diseases that cause dizziness. Note that an audiogram is usually performed along with another test called a tympanogram (which measures how well the ear drum vibrates).
How is the test done?	This test is performed in a sound-proof booth. You will wear insert earphones or headphones. You will be asked to respond when you hear various tones or words.
How long will it take?	About 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal.
Is it covered by insurance?	An audiogram is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Brainstem auditory evoked response</b>
Abbreviation:	“BAER,” or sometimes “ABR” (for “Auditory Brain Response”)
CPT code for this test:	92585
What is the test for?	This test assesses the neurological “pathways” that convey hearing signals from within the ear to the brain. It is used for detection of some disorders affecting the inner ear itself, as well as some diseases that involve the hearing-related nerve between the ear and the brain.
How is the test done?	A patient is generally lying in a quiet room, wearing insert earphones. Electrodes are applied to specific points in the ear, head and neck region. You will hear some sounds during the test, but the sounds are fairly monotonous, and many patients actually fall asleep.
How long will it take?	About 60 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal. Wear comfortable clothing.
Is it covered by insurance?	Brainstem auditory evoked response testing is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>* Computerized dynamic posturography</b>
Abbreviation:	“CDP”
CPT code for this test:	92548
What is the test for?	Computerized dynamic posturography can be helpful in identifying whether a patient’s dizziness is due to disorders involving the ears, or the eyes, or the feet.
How is the test done?	The patient stands in an enclosure about the size of a telephone booth, and is secured in a harness. Balance is assessed during several testing conditions, some of which involve being blindfolded, others of which involve slight “wiggling” of the floor or walls.
How long will it take?	About 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear comfortable clothing. You will be asked to remove your shoes for the test.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol for at least 48 hours prior to this test.</li> <li>• Please avoid taking dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) or meclizine (Bonine) for 48 hours prior to taking these tests.</li> </ul>
Is it covered by insurance?	Computerized dynamic posturography is covered by Medicare. Most other insurances do not cover this test. <b>Discounted fee for self-pay of \$170 is due at the time of service.</b>

Test name:	<b>Ear wax removal</b>
Other names:	“Cerumen disimpaction”
CPT code for this test:	69210
What is the test for?	This procedure removes wax (“cerumen”) from the ear canal.
How is the test done?	The audiologist or technician looks in the ear with an otoscope and removes wax either by using a small curette, or by trying to rinse the wax out.
How long will it take?	Anywhere from 1 to 5 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	No.
Is it covered by insurance?	Ear wax removal is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Electrocochleography</b>
Abbreviation:	“ECoG”
CPT code for this test:	92584
What is the test for?	Electrocochleography indirectly measures pressure in the inner ear. This can be helpful in diagnosing specific disorders that cause abnormal inner ear pressure.
How is the test done?	A patient is generally lying in a quiet room, wearing insert earphones. Electrodes are applied to specific points in the ear, head and neck region. You will hear some sounds during the test, but the sounds are fairly monotonous, and many patients actually fall asleep.
How long will it take?	About 60 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal. Wear comfortable clothing.
Is it covered by insurance?	Electrocochleography is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Otoacoustic emissions</b>
Abbreviation:	“OAE”
CPT code for this test:	92587 and 92588
What is the test for?	Otoacoustic emissions testing measures specific ways in which part of the inner ear responds to sound. It can be helpful in assessing hearing loss, though it is different from an audiogram.
How is the test done?	This test is often performed in a sound-proof booth. You will wear insert earphones. During the test you may hear soft, high-pitched sounds.
How long will it take?	The duration of the test can depend upon some of its initial results. The range can be anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal.
Is it covered by insurance?	Otoacoustic emissions testing is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Rotatory chair test</b>
Abbreviation:	“RCT”
CPT code for this test:	92546 and 92540
What is the test for?	This test can be helpful in the diagnosis of several diseases of the ear and brain that cause dizziness.
How is the test done?	The patient sits in a special chair and wears goggles that have a small camera within them. The goggles track eye movements that occur while the chair turns in various patterns. Most patients feel at least some dizziness during certain parts of the test, although the sensation is generally fairly brief.
How long will it take?	About 60 minutes
Is any preparation needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid wearing eye makeup for this test.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol for at least 48 hours prior to this test.</li> <li>• Please avoid taking dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) or meclizine (Bonine) for 48 hours prior to taking these tests.</li> </ul>
Is it covered by insurance?	Rotatory chair testing is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>** Tilt table test</b>
Abbreviation:	“TTT”
CPT code for this test:	93660 and 93000
What is the test for?	Tilt table test can help diagnose lightheadedness or dizziness arising from certain cardiovascular disorders in which a patient’s blood pressure or cardiac pulse do fail to “self-regulate” properly.
How is the test done?	The patient is strapped securely to a special table, and a blood pressure cuff is applied on one arm. The test involves the table being tilted into various positions (sometimes flat, other times partly upright), during which the patient’s blood pressure and cardiac pulse are monitored continuously. Note that this test is usually performed with an electrocardiogram (“EKG” or “ECG”), which involves placing several leads over the left side of the chest, and on the arms and legs.
How long will it take?	About 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	Wear comfortable clothing.
Is it covered by insurance?	Tilt table test is generally <i>not</i> covered by insurance. <b>Discounted fee for self-pay of \$300 is due at the time of service.</b>

Test name:	<b>Tympanogram</b>
Abbreviation:	“Tymp”
CPT code for this test:	92567
What is the test for?	This test assesses how well the eardrum vibrates. It is often performed in conjunction with an audiogram.
How is the test done?	An insert earphone is placed into the ear. You may hear some tones, but will not be required to respond.
How long will it take?	About 5 – 10 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal.
Is it covered by insurance?	A tympanogram is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Cervical vestibular evoked myogenic potentials</b>
Abbreviation:	“cVEMP”
CPT code for this test:	92586
What is the test for?	This test assesses the function of part of the inner ear (called the saccule) as well as the “pathway” that carries balance signals from that structure into the brainstem. The test may be helpful in diagnosis of a variety of disorders that cause hearing abnormalities and imbalance.
How is the test done?	The patient lies flat on a table wearing insert earphones. Electrodes are applied at specific points on the head and neck. The patient raises his or her head up slightly while various clicking sounds are played through the earphones.
How long will it take?	About 20 – 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal. Wear comfortable clothing for this test. Avoid wearing tight T-shirts or turtlenecks.
Is it covered by insurance?	Cervical vestibular evoked myogenic potential testing is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potentials</b>
Abbreviation:	“oVEMP”
CPT code for this test:	92586
What is the test for?	This test assesses the function of part of the inner ear (called the utricle) as well as the “pathway” that carries balance signals from that structure into the brainstem. The test may be helpful in diagnosis of a variety of disorders that cause hearing abnormalities and imbalance.
How is the test done?	The patient reclines in a chair wearing insert earphones. Electrodes are applied at specific points on the face, head and neck. The patient directs his or her gaze upward at a target while various clicking sounds are played through the earphones.
How long will it take?	About 20 – 30 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal. Wear comfortable clothing for this test. Avoid wearing tight T-shirts or turtlenecks.
Is it covered by insurance?	Ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potential testing is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>Videonystagmography</b>
Abbreviation:	“VNG” (sometimes also called “ENG,” for “electronystagmography”)
CPT code for this test:	92540 and 92543
What is the test for?	This test can be helpful in the diagnosis of several diseases of the ear and brain that cause dizziness.
How is the test done?	During this test the patient wears special goggles equipped with a tiny camera. The test essentially measures eye movements in several circumstances, such as when the head is still, when the head moves into a specific position, when there are visual targets for you to “track,” and when water of different temperatures is squirted into the ear canal. Most patients feel at least some dizziness during the part of the test where water is squirted into the ears, although this dizziness is usually brief.
How long will it take?	About 90 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is any ear wax, the audiologist or technician may need to clean out the ear canal.</li> <li>• Avoid wearing eye makeup for this test.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol for at least 48 hours prior to this test.</li> <li>• Please avoid taking dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) or meclizine (Bonine) for 48 hours prior to taking these tests.</li> </ul>
Is it covered by insurance?	Videonystagmography is usually covered by insurance, but you may contact your specific insurance carrier to be sure.

Test name:	<b>*** Video head impulse testing</b>
Abbreviation:	“VHIT”
CPT code for this test:	92700
What is the test for?	Video head impulse testing may help diagnose several inner ear disorders that cause dizziness. It is sometimes also repeated in order to assess whether a patient is recovering appropriately from specific inner ear causes of dizziness.
How is the test done?	The patient wears special goggles that have a small built-in camera that tracks eye movements. The technician will hold the patient’s head, and provoke quick but small movements of the head to one or the other side.
How long will it take?	About 15 minutes.
Is any preparation needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid wearing eye makeup for this test.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol for at least 48 hours prior to this test.</li> <li>• Please avoid taking dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) or meclizine (Bonine) for 48 hours prior to taking these tests.</li> </ul>
Is it covered by insurance?	Video head impulse testing is generally <i>not</i> covered by insurance. <b>Discounted fee of \$85 is due at time of service.</b>