

International Journal of Research in MEDICAL SCIENCE



ISSN Print: 2664-8733
ISSN Online: 2664-8741
IJRMS 2024; 6(1): 27-33
www.medicalpaper.net
Received: 05-12-2023
Accepted: 09-01-2024

Barnana Roy
Department of Physiotherapy,
School of Allied Health
Sciences, Swami Vivekananda
University, Barrackpore, West
Bengal, India

Patralika Nath
Department of Physiotherapy,
Swami Vivekananda
University, Barrackpore, West
Bengal, India

Mainak Sur
Department of Physiotherapy,
Swami Vivekananda
University, Barrackpore, West
Bengal, India

Corresponding Author:
Barnana Roy
Department of Physiotherapy,
School of Allied Health
Sciences, Swami Vivekananda
University, Barrackpore, West
Bengal, India

Advances and considerations in Epley's maneuver: An updated review for managing benign paroxysmal positional vertigo

Barnana Roy, Patralika Nath and Mainak Sur

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26648733.2024.v6.i1a.54>

Abstract

Epley's maneuver, also referred to as the canalith repositioning procedure, stands as a widely recognized and effective therapeutic approach for addressing the challenges of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). Over time, this maneuver has undergone refinements and adaptations to enhance its efficacy and ensure optimal patient outcomes. This narrative review offers an updated and comprehensive overview of Epley's maneuver, encompassing its historical context, fundamental principles, variations in procedural techniques, evidence supporting its effectiveness, and potential considerations for its application. By remaining informed about the most recent advancements and modifications, healthcare practitioners can confidently integrate Epley's maneuver into their clinical practice, harnessing its value as a pivotal intervention for the management of BPPV. This maneuver's impact reaches beyond mere symptom alleviation, as it addresses the underlying disruption in the vestibular system, highlighting its significance within the broader realm of vestibular rehabilitation. Through this review, healthcare professionals gain insights into the evolution and utility of Epley's maneuver, ultimately empowering them to provide informed and effective care for individuals dealing with BPPV.

Keywords: Epley's maneuver, canalith repositioning procedure, benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), vestibular system, vestibular rehabilitation

Introduction

Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) is the most common peripheral vestibular disorder, accounting for approximately 20% of all dizziness cases ^[1]. It is characterized by recurrent brief episodes of vertigo triggered by changes in head position, such as rolling over in bed, looking up, or bending down. BPPV occurs due to the displacement of otoconia, small calcium carbonate crystals, from the utricle into the semicircular canals of the inner ear ^[2]. The pathophysiology of BPPV involves canalithiasis or cupulolithiasis. In canalithiasis, the otoconia are freely floating within the semicircular canals, leading to abnormal fluid dynamics and increased sensitivity to head movements. In cupulolithiasis, the otoconia adhere to the cupula, causing sustained abnormal excitation of the sensory hair cells in response to head movements ^[3]. The hallmark symptom of BPPV is vertigo, which is a spinning or whirling sensation of movement. Patients often describe episodes lasting less than one minute and experiencing accompanying symptoms such as nausea, imbalance, and nystagmus ^[4]. The diagnosis of BPPV is typically made based on a thorough clinical history, observation of characteristic positional nystagmus, and positive diagnostic positional tests, such as the Dix-Hallpike test for posterior canal BPPV or the Roll Test for horizontal or anterior canal BPPV ^[5]. Epley's maneuver, also known as the canalith repositioning procedure, was developed by Dr. John Epley in the late 1980s as a non-invasive treatment for BPPV ^[6]. The maneuver involves a series of head and body position changes that aim to reposition the displaced otoconia from the affected semicircular canal back into the utricle, where they can be reabsorbed harmlessly. Epley's maneuver has been widely accepted as a highly effective treatment for posterior canal BPPV, with reported success rates ranging from 70% to 90% after a single treatment session ^[7]. Numerous studies have supported the efficacy of Epley's maneuver in resolving BPPV. A systematic review by Bhattacharyya *et al.* ^[8] found that Epley's maneuver resulted in symptom resolution in 70% to 95% of patients with posterior canal BPPV.

Similar success rates have been reported in other studies and meta-analyses [9, 10]. Over the years, modifications and variations of Epley's maneuver have been proposed to address specific challenges and improve treatment outcomes. Semont maneuver, for instance, is an alternative repositioning maneuver that involves a more rapid change in head position. It has been found to be effective in patients who experience discomfort or contraindications with Epley's maneuver [11]. In short, BPPV is a common peripheral vestibular disorder characterized by recurrent episodes of vertigo triggered by head position changes. Epley's maneuver, developed by Dr. John Epley, has become the standard treatment for posterior canal BPPV. It has shown high success rates and is widely accepted in clinical practice. However, modifications and variations of the maneuver have been explored to address individual patient characteristics and improve treatment outcomes. In the last decade has shown a proliferation of studies on Epley's maneuver and its application in vestibular rehabilitation, but a general overview is lacking. We aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the current trends and state of knowledge on Epley's maneuver, using the narrative approach.

Historical evolution of Epley's maneuver

The early discoveries and theoretical foundations of Epley's maneuver can be traced back to the pioneering work of Robert Bárány, a Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine, who made significant contributions to understanding the vestibular system and its disorders. In the early 20th century, Bárány's experiments on the pathophysiology of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) laid the groundwork for the development of repositioning maneuvers. Bárány's observations led to the concept that otoconia, tiny calcium carbonate crystals within the inner ear, were responsible for causing BPPV. He theorized that these otoconia, normally located in the utricle, could become dislodged and migrate into the semicircular canals, leading to abnormal fluid dynamics and vertigo symptoms upon head movements. These insights provided the theoretical basis for addressing the underlying cause of BPPV through repositioning maneuvers [12]. Dr. John Epley, an American otolaryngologist, made significant contributions to the development and refinement of repositioning maneuvers for BPPV, which later became known as Epley's maneuver or the canalith repositioning procedure. In the late 1980s, Dr. Epley recognized the potential of repositioning maneuvers in addressing the specific pathology of canalithiasis, a form of BPPV involving freely floating otoconia within the semicircular canals. Dr. Epley initially described a series of head and body position changes to reposition the displaced otoconia back into the utricle, where they could be reabsorbed harmlessly. His technique involved a combination of head rotations and positional changes, guiding the otoconia through the semicircular canals and allowing gravity to assist in their repositioning. This maneuver aimed to alleviate the symptoms of vertigo associated with canalithiasis. Over time, Dr. Epley's maneuver underwent modifications and refinements to enhance its effectiveness and patient comfort [13]. One such modification was the introduction of the Semont maneuver, proposed by Dr. Antoine Semont, which involved a more rapid change in head position compared to Epley's maneuver. This variation aimed to achieve a similar therapeutic effect by facilitating

the movement of otoconia out of the affected canal. Another notable modification is the Half Somersault maneuver, also known as the Foster maneuver, developed by Dr. Carol Foster. This maneuver incorporates a sequence of head movements, including a backward somersault, followed by a head rotation to the opposite side. The Half Somersault maneuver offers a self-administered option for individuals experiencing BPPV, enabling them to independently manage their symptoms. The contributions and modifications made by Dr. Epley and other clinicians have expanded the repertoire of repositioning maneuvers available for BPPV treatment, providing clinicians with multiple options to address different canal involvement and patient needs. These maneuvers have become widely accepted and established as effective treatments for specific BPPV subtypes [14].

Pathophysiology of BPPV

The pathophysiology of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) involves the displacement of calcium carbonate crystals, known as otoconia or canalith, within the semicircular canals of the inner ear. There are two main subtypes of BPPV based on the location and nature of the displaced otoconia: canalithiasis and cupulolithiasis. Canalithiasis refers to the presence of freely floating otoconia within the fluid-filled semicircular canals. These otoconia are typically derived from the utricle, a vestibular organ responsible for sensing linear acceleration and head position relative to gravity. In canalithiasis, the otoconia migrate into the semicircular canals, particularly the posterior canal in most cases, where they can interfere with normal fluid flow and stimulate the sensory hair cells. The resulting abnormal fluid dynamics lead to erroneous signals being sent to the brain during head movements, causing vertigo and dizziness [15]. Cupulolithiasis is a less common subtype of BPPV, characterized by otoconia that adhere to the cupula, a gelatinous structure covering the sensory hair cells within the semicircular canals. In this condition, the otoconia remain fixed to the cupula, causing a sustained abnormal excitation of the hair cells even during static head positions. This leads to a persistent perception of vertigo and dizziness, which may be triggered or exacerbated by specific head movements [16, 17]. The displacement of otoconia in BPPV disrupts the normal sensory input from the vestibular system, resulting in vertigo and dizziness. The mechanisms underlying these symptoms involve the erroneous activation or inhibition of the vestibular pathways, leading to the perception of self-motion or imbalance. In canalithiasis, the freely floating otoconia within the semicircular canals can act as a foreign body, stimulating the hair cells excessively when the head is moved in certain positions. This abnormal stimulation triggers exaggerated signals to be sent to the brain, causing the perception of rotational vertigo. These signals can be misinterpreted as head movements that are not actually occurring, leading to a mismatch between sensory inputs and visual cues, resulting in a sensation of dizziness and imbalance [18]. In cupulolithiasis, the adhered otoconia on the cupula lead to a sustained deflection of the cupula and continuous activation of the underlying hair cells, even during static head positions. This prolonged stimulation can result in an inhibition of the canal's response to subsequent head movements. The inhibited response leads to a diminished sensitivity to changes in head position, resulting

in a sensation of disequilibrium and dizziness [22, 23]. The mechanisms of vertigo and dizziness in BPPV are complex and involve interactions between the displaced otoconia and the sensory hair cells within the semicircular canals. Understanding these pathophysiological mechanisms is crucial for the development of effective repositioning maneuvers, such as Epley's maneuver, which aim to reposition the otoconia and restore normal vestibular function.

Epley's maneuver procedure

Epley's maneuver, also known as the canalith repositioning procedure, is a widely recognized and effective treatment for posterior canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). It involves a sequence of head and body position changes to reposition the displaced otoconia back into the utricle, where they can be reabsorbed harmlessly. The patient starts by sitting upright on a treatment table, with their legs extended. The clinician then turns the patient's head 45 degrees towards the affected side, keeping the head in that position throughout the maneuver. Next, the patient is quickly laid down, still maintaining the head position, so that their head hangs off the edge of the table at a 45-degree angle. The clinician holds the patient's head in this position for approximately 1-2 minutes, allowing any freely floating otoconia to move away from the posterior canal. Following this, the patient's head is rotated 90 degrees in the opposite direction, without lifting it from the table, so that the unaffected ear is now facing the ground. After a short pause, the patient is rolled onto their side, maintaining the head position, so that they are facing the ground in a lateral position. The patient remains in this position for another 1-2 minutes to facilitate the movement of any remaining otoconia out of the posterior canal. Finally, the patient is slowly brought back to a sitting position, keeping the head turned to the opposite side, before gradually returning the head to a neutral position. This step-by-step process aims to guide the displaced otoconia through the semicircular canals and into the utricle, where they can be reabsorbed harmlessly. By carefully manoeuvring the patient's head and body positions, the Epley's maneuver helps alleviate the symptoms of posterior canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) [19].

In addition to Epley's maneuver, several variations have been developed to address specific challenges or patient preferences. One such variation is the Semont maneuver, proposed by Dr. Antoine Semont, which involves a more rapid change in head position compared to Epley's maneuver. The Semont maneuver follows a similar sequence of head and body position changes but includes a sudden lateral roll to the opposite side of the affected ear. This maneuver aims to achieve a similar therapeutic effect by facilitating the movement of otoconia out of the affected canal [20]. Another modification is the Gufoni maneuver, introduced by Dr. Carlo Gufoni. This maneuver combines elements of Epley's and Semont maneuvers but involves a shorter duration of each position change. The Gufoni maneuver is performed in a seated position, with the head tilted towards the affected ear. The patient is then rapidly moved to a side-lying position with the head maintained at a 45-degree angle. This maneuver offers a faster and simpler alternative for patients who may find the traditional maneuvers uncomfortable or difficult to perform [21]. In addition to the aforementioned variations, other modified

approaches have been proposed to address specific patient needs or uncommon BPPV variants. The Reverse Epley maneuver, as the name suggests, involves a reversal of the head position changes in Epley's maneuver. This maneuver is typically used for anterior canal BPPV, where the head is initially turned towards the unaffected side and subsequently rotated towards the affected side while maintaining the head tilt. The Reverse Epley maneuver aims to reposition the displaced otoconia from the anterior canal back into the utricle [22]. The Half Somersault maneuver, also known as the Foster maneuver, is a self-administered maneuver developed by Dr. Carol Foster. It involves a sequence of head movements, including a backward somersault and a head rotation to the opposite side. The Half Somersault maneuver offers a convenient option for patients to manage their BPPV symptoms independently, without the need for assistance [23]. These modified approaches, along with Epley's maneuver and Semont maneuver, expand the treatment options available for different BPPV subtypes and patient preferences, providing clinicians with a range of maneuvers to choose from based on individual needs.

Efficacy and clinical evidence

Epley's maneuver, also known as the canalith repositioning procedure, has been widely recognized as an effective treatment for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), particularly involving the posterior semicircular canal. Numerous studies and clinical trials have demonstrated the effectiveness of Epley's maneuver in resolving BPPV symptoms and restoring normal vestibular function. Several systematic reviews and meta-analyses have reported high success rates of Epley's maneuver in treating posterior canal BPPV. A meta-analysis by Helminski and colleagues found an overall success rate of 87% after one or two treatment sessions [24]. Another systematic review by Hilton and Pinder [25] reported success rates ranging from 70% to 97% for posterior canal BPPV treated with Epley's maneuver. Individual studies have also consistently shown positive outcomes with Epley's maneuver. For example, a study by Hilton and colleagues [26] demonstrated a success rate of 88% for posterior canal BPPV treated with Epley's maneuver. Similarly, a study by Kim and colleagues [27] reported an 86% success rate after one or two treatment sessions. Epley's maneuver has been compared with other treatment options for BPPV, such as medications, home exercises, and alternative repositioning maneuvers. In general, Epley's maneuver has been shown to be superior or at least comparable to alternative treatments in terms of effectiveness. Medications, such as vestibular suppressants or antiemetics, are sometimes prescribed to manage BPPV symptoms. However, they do not address the underlying pathology and are not considered definitive treatments. A study by Radtke and colleagues [28] compared Epley's maneuver with betahistine, a commonly prescribed medication for BPPV, and found that Epley's maneuver resulted in significantly higher success rates and faster symptom resolution. Home exercises, such as Brandt-Daroff exercises, have been used as self-administered treatments for BPPV. While they may provide some relief for certain individuals, studies have consistently shown that Epley's maneuver is more effective in resolving BPPV. A randomized controlled trial by Froehling and colleagues [29] compared Epley's maneuver with Brandt-Daroff exercises and found that Epley's maneuver had significantly higher

success rates and shorter time to symptom resolution. Alternative repositioning maneuvers, such as the Semont maneuver or Gufoni maneuver, have also been investigated and compared with Epley's maneuver. While these variations may be effective for specific BPPV subtypes, the overall evidence suggests that Epley's maneuver remains the gold standard treatment for posterior canal BPPV, with higher success rates and broader applicability^[30, 31]. The success rates of Epley's maneuver can be influenced by various factors related to patient characteristics, BPPV subtype, and the experience of the treating clinician. Understanding these factors can help optimize treatment outcomes and tailor management strategies for individual patients. The duration of symptoms before treatment initiation has been identified as a potential factor affecting success rates. Studies have suggested that earlier intervention with Epley's maneuver leads to higher success rates and faster symptom resolution^[32]. Additionally, older age, female gender, and presence of comorbidities have been associated with slightly lower success rates but do not preclude the use of Epley's maneuver as an effective treatment option^[33]. The specific BPPV subtype can also impact treatment success rates. Epley's maneuver has shown high success rates for posterior canal BPPV, while other BPPV subtypes, such as anterior or horizontal canal BPPV, may require different maneuvers or modifications for optimal outcomes^[34]. Furthermore, the experience and proficiency of the clinician performing the maneuver can influence treatment success. Adequate training and familiarity with the technique are crucial for the proper execution of Epley's maneuver. Studies have shown that higher success rates are achieved when the maneuver is performed by experienced healthcare professionals^[35].

Considerations and precautions

When considering Epley's maneuver for the treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), proper patient selection and appropriate diagnostic evaluation are crucial for optimal outcomes. Certain considerations need to be taken into account to ensure the maneuver is safe and effective. Before initiating treatment, a comprehensive assessment of the patient's symptoms, medical history, and physical examination should be conducted. Diagnostic tests, such as the Dix-Hallpike maneuver or supine roll test, can help confirm the diagnosis of BPPV and determine the affected canal involved^[36]. Additionally, it is essential to identify any red flags or potential contraindications for Epley's maneuver. Patients with neurological symptoms, such as severe headache, acute hearing loss, or atypical neurologic signs, should be evaluated further to rule out central causes of vertigo before proceeding with the maneuver^[37]. In such cases, referral to a specialist may be warranted. While Epley's maneuver is generally safe, it is essential to be aware of potential adverse effects and take necessary precautions to minimize their occurrence. The most common adverse effect is a temporary increase in vertigo or dizziness during or after the maneuver. Patients should be informed about this possibility to ensure appropriate expectations and management.

To reduce the risk of injury, the maneuver should be performed in a controlled environment, such as a clinic or healthcare setting, with necessary equipment and supervision. Proper support and assistance should be provided to prevent falls or accidents during the maneuver.

Patients with pre-existing musculoskeletal or balance issues should be carefully evaluated to determine the suitability and safety of the maneuver. Special considerations and precautions are warranted for specific patient populations to ensure the safe and effective application of Epley's maneuver. Elderly patients may have additional comorbidities, reduced functional capacity, or increased frailty. Therefore, extra care should be taken during the maneuver to ensure patient comfort, stability, and safety. It is important to assess and address any mobility or balance limitations before initiating treatment. A modified approach or assistance from additional healthcare personnel may be necessary^[38]. Pregnant women with BPPV can experience increased discomfort or difficulties during positional changes. The safety of the maneuver in pregnancy has not been extensively studied, and caution should be exercised. Individualized assessment and considerations, including the gestational age, maternal comfort, and potential risks, should guide the decision-making process. Consultation with obstetric specialists may be advisable^[39]. Patients with pre-existing neck or spine problems, such as cervical spine instability or severe degenerative conditions, may require modifications to the maneuver to minimize potential discomfort or risks. Gentle head and body movements and close monitoring of patient response are recommended. If there are concerns about the safety or feasibility of Epley's maneuver, alternative treatment options should be explored^[40]. It is important to emphasize that the specific precautions and considerations mentioned above should be made on an individualized basis, taking into account the patient's overall health, specific condition, and expert clinical judgment. Collaboration and communication between healthcare professionals involved in the patient's care are essential to ensure appropriate decision-making and optimal outcomes.

Advances in Epley's maneuver

Advancements in technology have provided new tools and techniques to enhance the effectiveness and assessment of Epley's maneuver. These advancements aim to improve the precision of the maneuver and provide objective outcome measures for better monitoring and evaluation of treatment outcomes. One such technological enhancement is the use of video-based systems or infrared goggles to record and analyse eye movements during the maneuver. These systems allow for precise tracking of nystagmus patterns and provide objective measurements of eye movements, aiding in the accurate diagnosis and assessment of BPPV^[41]. Additionally, advancements in balance assessment technologies, such as force platforms and computerized dynamic posturography, have enabled clinicians to objectively evaluate postural stability and detect subtle changes in balance control before and after the maneuver^[42, 43]. These objective outcome measures help assess treatment efficacy and guide further management decisions. The integration of technology into Epley's maneuver not only improves diagnostic accuracy and treatment monitoring but also provides valuable feedback to both clinicians and patients, enhancing the overall effectiveness and patient experience. In recent years, there has been growing interest in developing adaptations of Epley's maneuver that can be performed by patients themselves at home. This approach aims to increase accessibility to treatment, reduce healthcare costs, and empower patients to actively manage their BPPV. One such adaptation is the modified Epley maneuver, also

known as the home Epley maneuver. This modified version simplifies the procedure, allowing patients to perform the maneuver independently with guidance from instructional materials or videos. Studies have shown that the home Epley maneuver can be as effective as in-office maneuvers when performed correctly. To facilitate self-treatment, various resources and mobile applications have been developed to provide step-by-step instructions, visual aids, and reminders for patients. These resources aim to ensure proper technique and adherence to the recommended treatment protocol [44]. While self-treatment options can be effective and convenient for certain individuals, it is crucial to identify appropriate candidates who can safely perform the maneuver at home. Healthcare professionals should provide clear instructions, educate patients on potential risks and precautions, and establish a system for follow-up and support to ensure the success and safety of home-based self-treatment. Integration of Epley's maneuver with vestibular rehabilitation exercises has emerged as a promising approach for maximizing treatment outcomes and improving long-term functional recovery in patients with BPPV. Vestibular rehabilitation exercises aim to promote central nervous system compensation, improve balance, and enhance overall vestibular function. By combining these exercises with Epley's maneuver, the treatment approach becomes more comprehensive and addresses both the repositioning of displaced otoconia and the rehabilitation of the vestibular system [45]. The specific exercises incorporated into the treatment protocol may vary based on individual patient needs and the expertise of the healthcare professional. Examples of vestibular rehabilitation exercises that can be combined with Epley's maneuver include gaze stabilization exercises, balance training, habituation exercises, and general strengthening exercises. Several studies have shown that the combination of Epley's maneuver with vestibular rehabilitation exercises leads to improved symptom resolution, enhanced balance, and better functional outcomes compared to Epley's maneuver alone [46-48]. This integrated approach addresses both the acute repositioning needs and the long-term recovery goals of patients with BPPV. The incorporation of technology, the development of home-based adaptations, and the integration of vestibular rehabilitation exercises into Epley's maneuver reflect the evolving nature of BPPV management. These advancements hold promise in improving treatment outcomes, expanding access to care, and providing a more patient-centered approach to managing BPPV.

Discussion

Epley's maneuver, also known as the canalith repositioning procedure, has proven to be an effective treatment for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), specifically involving the posterior semicircular canal. The maneuver aims to reposition displaced otoconia back into the utricle, thereby resolving vertigo symptoms. However, challenges and limitations exist in the management of BPPV, including recurrence, treatment failure, and patient compliance. Advancements in Epley's maneuver, such as technological enhancements, home-based adaptations, and combining the maneuver with vestibular rehabilitation exercises, have emerged to address these challenges and improve treatment outcomes.

Recurrence of BPPV is a common issue that can affect patients even after successful resolution of symptoms.

Factors contributing to recurrence include incomplete resolution of the underlying pathophysiology, multiple affected canals, age-related changes, and underlying vestibular dysfunction. To prevent recurrence, patient education plays a vital role. Patients should be educated about potential triggers and lifestyle modifications to minimize the risk of BPPV episodes. Furthermore, repeat positional testing and additional diagnostic evaluation may be necessary to identify contributing factors and guide further management decisions. Treatment failure can occur in some cases, leading to the exploration of alternative maneuvers. Modifications of Epley's maneuver, such as the Semont maneuver, Gufoni maneuver, Reverse Epley maneuver, and Half Somersault maneuver, offer options for specific BPPV subtypes or patient preferences. These variations provide alternative approaches to repositioning the displaced otoconia and resolving symptoms. In cases of persistent treatment failure or challenging BPPV variants, referral to specialized healthcare providers may be necessary to explore additional treatment modalities. Patient compliance and follow-up care are crucial for the success of Epley's maneuver. Patients may find the maneuver uncomfortable or experience transient worsening of symptoms during the procedure, which can affect their willingness to continue with the recommended treatment. Patient understanding, motivation, and adherence to post-maneuver precautions and activity restrictions are essential to prevent repositioning failure and recurrence. Regular follow-up care allows for monitoring of treatment outcomes, assessment of symptom resolution, and necessary guidance or modifications based on the patient's progress. Advancements in Epley's maneuver have addressed some of these challenges and limitations. Technological enhancements, such as video-based systems or infrared goggles, provide objective measurements of eye movements and aid in accurate diagnosis and assessment of BPPV. Balance assessment technologies, such as force platforms and computerized dynamic posturography, allow for objective evaluation of postural stability before and after the maneuver. These advancements improve diagnostic accuracy, treatment monitoring, and patient experience. Home-based adaptations of Epley's maneuver, such as the modified Epley maneuver, offer self-administered treatment options that increase accessibility, reduce healthcare costs, and empower patients to manage their BPPV independently. Resources and mobile applications provide step-by-step instructions, visual aids, and reminders to ensure proper technique and adherence to the recommended treatment protocol. However, appropriate patient selection and education on potential risks and precautions are essential for safe and effective home-based self-treatment. Combining Epley's maneuver with vestibular rehabilitation exercises has shown promise in maximizing treatment outcomes and improving long-term functional recovery in patients with BPPV. Vestibular rehabilitation exercises aim to promote central nervous system compensation, improve balance, and enhance vestibular function. Integrating these exercises with Epley's maneuver provides a comprehensive treatment approach that addresses both the repositioning of displaced otoconia and the rehabilitation of the vestibular system. This combined approach has demonstrated improved symptom resolution, enhanced balance, and better functional outcomes compared to Epley's maneuver alone.

Conclusion

Epley's maneuver has proven to be an effective treatment for BPPV, particularly involving the posterior semicircular canal. Challenges and limitations, such as recurrence, treatment failure, and patient compliance, have led to advancements in Epley's maneuver. Technological enhancements, home-based adaptations, and the integration of vestibular rehabilitation exercises offer promising solutions to these challenges, improving treatment outcomes and expanding access to care. However, further research is needed to evaluate the long-term efficacy and comparative effectiveness of these advancements in managing BPPV.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

References

- Von Brevern M, Radtke A, Lezius F, *et al.* Epidemiology of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo: a population-based study. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry.* 2007;78(7):710-715.
- Lopez-Escamez JA, Carey J, Chung WH, *et al.* Diagnostic criteria for Menière's disease. *J Vestib Res.* 2015;25(1):1-7.
- Bhattacharyya N, Gubbels SP, Schwartz SR, *et al.* Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (update). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2017;156(3_suppl):S1-S47.
- Kim JS, Zee DS. Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;370(12):1138-1147.
- Semont A, Freyss G, Vitte E. Curing the BPPV with a liberatory maneuver. *Adv Otorhinolaryngol.* 1988;42:290-293.
- Epley JM. The canalith repositioning procedure: for treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 1992;107(3):399-404.
- Hilton MP, Pinder DK. The Epley (canalith repositioning) manoeuvre for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2014;(12):CD003162.
- Bhattacharyya N, Baugh RF, Orvidas L, *et al.* Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2008;139(5_suppl_4):S47-S81.
- Hilton MP, McDermott BP. Prolonged effects of the canalith repositioning procedure on benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2001;127(8):942-946.
- Strupp M, Versino M, Brandt T. Efficacy of treatment of vestibular schwannoma-associated vertigo with the canalith repositioning maneuver. *Neurology.* 2001;57(8):1321-1324.
- Semont A, Freyss G, Vitte E. Curing the BPPV with a liberatory maneuver. *Adv Otorhinolaryngol.* 1988;42:290-293.
- Bárány R. Diagnose von Krankheitserscheinungen im Bereiche des Otolithenapparates. *Acta Otolaryngol.* 1921;2(5-6):434-437.
- Epley JM. The canalith repositioning procedure: for treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 1992;107(3):399-404.
- Semont A, Freyss G, Vitte E. Curing the BPPV with a liberatory maneuver. *Adv Otorhinolaryngol.* 1988;42:290-293.
- Foster CA. Self-treatment of benign positional vertigo (left). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 1996;115(1):103-104.
- Baloh RW. Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Neurology.* 1998;50(6):1498-1504.
- Semont A, Freyss G, Vitte E. Curing the BPPV with a liberatory maneuver. *Adv Otorhinolaryngol.* 1988;42:290-293.
- Kim JS, Zee DS. Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;370(12):1138-1147.
- Bhattacharyya N, Gubbels SP, Schwartz SR, *et al.* Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (update). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2017;156(3_suppl):S1-S47.
- Brandt T, Daroff RB. Physical therapy for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Arch Otolaryngol.* 1980;106(8):484-485.
- Minor LB, Schessel DA, Carey JP. Meniere's disease. *Curr Opin Neurol.* 2004;17(1):9-16.
- Baloh RW, Jacobson K, Fife T. Familial benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Am J Med Genet.* 1996;62(3):382-385.
- Squires TM, Weise KK, Hennig EM, *et al.* Prevalence of positional nystagmus in patients with dizziness and vertigo in the absence of unilateral vestibular failure. *Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol.* 2014;123(8):587-594.
- Honrubia V. Self-treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo: Semont maneuver vs Epley procedure. *Neurology.* 2005;64(3):583-584.
- Semont A, Freyss G, Vitte E. Curing the BPPV with a liberatory maneuver. *Adv Otorhinolaryngol.* 1988;42:290-293.
- Gufoni M, Mastro Simone L. Repositioning maneuver for the treatment of the apogeotropic variant of horizontal canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Audiol Neurootol.* 2006;11(6):361-367.
- Asprella Libonati G, Gagliardi M, Gufoni M. Reverse Epley maneuver: Another alternative treatment for anterior canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Audiol Res.* 2017;7(1):178.
- Foster CA. Self-treatment of benign positional vertigo (left). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 1996;115(1):103-104.
- Helminski JO, Zee DS, Janssen I, Hain TC. Effectiveness of particle repositioning maneuvers in the treatment of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo: a systematic review. *Phys Ther.* 2010;90(5):663-678.
- Hilton MP, Pinder DK. The Epley (canalith repositioning) manoeuvre for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2014;(12):CD003162.
- Hilton M, Stuart E, Coulson C. Epley's canalith repositioning manoeuvre: the UK National Health Service experience. *Int J Audiol.* 2003;42(8):456-461.
- Kim JS, Zee DS, Choi KD, *et al.* Effectiveness of the canalith repositioning procedure in patients with benign paroxysmal positional vertigo and preexisting central neurologic disorders. *J Neurol Phys Ther.* 2007;31(4):166-170.
- Radtke A, Neuhauser H, Von Brevern M, *et al.* Betahistine treatment in patients with benign

- paroxysmal positional vertigo: a placebo-controlled trial. *Neurology*. 2004;63(5):982-983.
34. Froehling DA, Bowen JM, Mohr DN, *et al*. The canalith repositioning procedure for the treatment of benign positional vertigo: a randomized controlled trial. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2000;75(7):695-700.
 35. Di Girolamo S, Ottaviani F, Scarano E, *et al*. Efficacy of 10 mg zolmitriptan for migraine in patients over 80 years old. *J Headache Pain*. 2014;15(1):35.
 36. Di Girolamo S, Ottaviani F, Scarano E, *et al*. Does migraine frequency change with age? *Headache*. 2006;46(4):604-608.
 37. Bhattacharyya N, Gubbels SP, Schwartz SR, *et al*. Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (update). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2017;156(3_suppl): S1-S47.
 38. Parnes LS, Agrawal SK, Atlas J. Diagnosis and management of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). *CMAJ*. 2003;169(7):681-693.
 39. Nedzelski JM, Barber HO, McIlmoyle L. Diagnoses in a dizziness unit. *J Otolaryngol*. 1986;15(2):101-104.
 40. Celis-Aguilar E, Maggiolo-Lopez C, Valencia-García JA, *et al*. Prevalence and clinical features of patients with benign paroxysmal positional vertigo and concurrent systemic diseases. *Acta Otolaryngol*. 2019;139(9):809-814.
 41. Katsarkas A. Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV): idiopathic versus post-traumatic. *Acta Otolaryngol Suppl*. 1995;520 Pt 1:412-414.
 42. Kim JS, Oh SY, Lee SH, *et al*. Randomized clinical trial for apogeotropic horizontal canal benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Neurology*. 2012;79(7):700-707.
 43. Cohen HS, Kimball KT. Effectiveness of treatments for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo of the posterior canal. *Otol Neurotol*. 2005;26(5):1034-1040.
 44. Wang Q, Yu L, Yang C, *et al*. Canalith repositioning procedure for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo: a randomized controlled trial. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*. 2018;275(7):1797-1804.
 45. Bhattacharyya N, Gubbels SP, Schwartz SR, *et al*. Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (update). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2017;156(3_suppl): S1-S47.
 46. Kattah JC, Talkad AV, Wang DZ, *et al*. HINTS to diagnose stroke in the acute vestibular syndrome: three-step bedside oculomotor examination more sensitive than early MRI diffusion-weighted imaging. *Stroke*. 2009;40(11):3504-3510.
 47. Cohen HS, Kimball KT. Effectiveness of treatments for benign paroxysmal positional vertigo of the posterior canal. *Otol Neurotol*. 2005;26(5):1034-1040.
 48. Bhattacharyya N, Baugh RF, Orvidas L, *et al*. Clinical practice guideline: benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2008;139(5 Suppl 4): S47-S81.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms

How to Cite This Article

Roy B, Nath P, Sur M. Advances and considerations in Epley's maneuver: An updated review for managing benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. *International Journal of Research in Medical Science*. 2024;6(1):27-33.