The Torsion Swing

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An introduction to the torsion swing test is given. This test is a rapid and simple method to investigate the labyrinth and to get information:

whether there is an irritable labyrinth;

whether there is a directional preponderance of the vesti-bular nystagmus.

In the recording of the nystagmus provoked by the torsion swing we find three remarkable points:

the speed of the nystagmus,

the frequency of the nystagmus,

the duration of the nystagmus.

In 153 normal human beings the torsion swing test was performed every half-hour during $\frac{1}{8}$ h.

There was only a slight change of the nystagmic pattern. Many times there was directional preponderance (20%). The duration of the nystagmus was very constant more so than its frequency and its speed. This duration was measured every half-hour.

nystagmus duration

/*7 < /. 2. The torsion swing.

Various motion sickness drugs were administered to normal test persons who were tested on the torsion swing every half-hour. After each test the duration of the evoked nystagmus was measured and compared.

The drugs gave a significant decrease of the duration of nystagmus. On our recordings the beginning and the moment of the deepest depression can be determined. Of the drugs which were tested primatour has the most depressive effect on the duration of the nystagmus.