

## CLINICAL AUDIOVESTIBULOMETRY FOR OTOLOGISTS AND NEUROLOGISTS (4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION)

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The first edition of this book came in print almost 2 decades ago and is one of the various publications from the prolific pen of Dr. Anirban Biswas. Dr. Biswas's reputation in the field of Neuro-otology remains unparalleled in South-East Asia, and indeed his writings have become the standard and preferred texts in the subject of Neuro-otology. The current edition is the fourth edition of an established book and seeks to supplement itself with the recent developments in the subspecialty since the last edition in 2002.

The book is an easy read on a difficult and challenging subject which unfortunately is made even more challenging to most professionals in otology and neurology because of the lack of many comprehensive and contemporary texts on the subject. The subject is presented from the standpoint of a medical practitioner and covers a fair amount of the relevant basic sciences of physics, audiology, otology and neurology which are essential to the understanding of the subject. These are presented not as dry, stand-alone chapters, but are integrated into the text with the relevant sections so as to hold the reader's interest and to provide the reader with the theoretical basis for the clinical tests and their applications. The author's facility with words ensures that even difficult concepts are presented in a facile and easy to comprehend manner.

The book covers two distinct aspects- one of audiological assessment and another of vestibular assessment. The focus is primarily on a detailed description of how to do each test followed by a discussion on the interpretation of each finding. Practical difficulties encountered, and tips and nuggets for each procedure are suggested amidst the text, and testify to the author's practical experience in undertaking each of the described tests. The entire gamut of available tests is covered in a comprehensive way. The audiological testing procedures covered include pure tone audiometry,

tympometry, behavioral audiological testing, speech audiometry, tests for central deafness, evoked response audiometry, auditory steady state response testing, evoked response audiometry and assessment of a deaf child. The vestibular tests covered include a very detailed and comprehensive discussion on Electronstagnography, and further descriptions on the battery of vestibulo-spinal tests inclusive of cranio-corpography and posturography and the recently made available test of vestibular evoked myogenic potentials (VEMP). An additional section presents an overview of the available test battery and tries to place into perspective the benefits and limitations of each test in the overall assessment of the dizzy patient.

The audiological community would certainly have encountered more comprehensive texts on the subject of audiological testing. This particular book however stands out in presenting all the requisite, relevant and practical information in a concise and readable form, and in detailing the perspective of the clinicians who may order these tests. Audiologists shall also greatly enjoy going through the very balanced section on vestibular testing. The book as suggested in the title- is however aimed primarily at otologists and neurologists; and to this group of professionals it comes across as a comprehensive text which covers its subject in a complete and inclusive manner such that no reference to any other text is deemed necessary.

Excepting for the excellent section on electro-nystagnography authored by Professor M V Kirtane who pioneered this technique, all other sections have been written up by Dr. Anirban Biswas. The single author nature of the book has advantages as it avoids repetition. The book is well indexed and the index section allows for quick references to any topic. The index also allows for the busy clinician to nevertheless make full use of the contents by short and comprehensive reads.

I personally have enjoyed previous editions of this textbook. It occupies a permanent place on my bookshelf and is often thumbed through. The current edition has further additional sections including but not limited to the ASSR, Video-Nystagmography, and Genetic testing for hearing loss. This new edition shall continue to provide me with a guide to the subject which is both useful and enjoyable, and a quick reference for some of the complexities of audiology and vestibulometry.

**Reviewed by**

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