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**Title:** The direction of apparent movement during transient

pressure vertigo

**Authors:** Ross, HE

**Keywords:** ear

alternobaric vertigo

position

Issue Date: 1976

**Abstract:** Pressure vertigo or alternobaric vertigo is the type of

vertigo normally associated with relative

overpressure in the middle ear. As with other types of vertigo, it should occur only if there is unequal stimulation of the left and right vestibular systems:

there should be a lawful relation between the orientation of the head, the side of the

overpressured ear, and the direction of apparent

movement. Few published accounts give information on all these aspects. This paper reports some old

and new cases which suggests that, when the head is upright during the ascent, overpressure in the

right ear causes apparent bodily and visual

movement to the right (clockwise), while overpressure in the left ear has the opposite effect.

Horizontal orientation of the head probably reduces

the vertigo. There are no detailed and unequivocal reports of pressure vertigo during descent, or with

the head inverted. Some reports exist of tumbling sensations and of tilting of the visual scene, but the

exact circumstances are unclear.

**Description:** Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc.

(http://www.uhms.org)

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