**Vertebral Artery Test**

**Test Positioning**

The subject lies supine, and the examiner sits with both hands supporting the subject’s head.

**Action**

Slowly extend, rotate, and laterally flex the subject’s cervical spine to each side. Then observe the subject for dizziness, blurred vision, nystagmus, slurred speech, or loss of consciousness (Figure 2-1). Each position should be held for approximately 30 seconds.

**Positive Finding**

Dizziness, blurred vision, nystagmus, slurred speech, or loss of consciousness are indicative of partial or complete occlusion of the vertebral artery.

**Special Considerations/Comments**

The aforementioned signs and symptoms should be considered contraindications for such treatments as traction and joint mobilizations.

**References**


