

Patient Success Story

Ellen C. of Leominster had been suffering from vertigo for more than a year. After numerous appointments with a variety of specialists, she continued to be plagued with dizziness which was impacting her quality of life.

“I had severe vertigo,” said Ellen, an active retiree. “I went to all types of specialists including chiropractors, physical therapists and was getting massages. I was told repeatedly it wasn’t vertigo.” During her quest for answers, Ellen suffered two falls. One resulted in a broken toe and the next in a concussion. “It was more than a year of frustration,” said Ellen.

After a friend recommended [Michael “Mike” Chiauzzi, a physical therapist and vestibular rehabilitation specialist at Nashoba Valley Medical Center](#), Ellen thought it couldn’t hurt. “I had been frustrated for a year-and-a-half and wasn’t really expecting much to come out of this visit,” she said.

Chiauzzi is one of the region’s only specialists who diagnoses and treats vertigo and other vestibular disorders using infrared video goggles designed to provide patients with an accurate assessment and sometimes immediate treatment of vertigo, dizziness and feelings of imbalance.

“Vertigo can significantly impact an individual’s life,” said Chiauzzi. “When I provide community talks about fall prevention, especially among a senior crowd, one of the most frequent questions I get is related to dizziness.”

With the infrared goggles, Chiauzzi is able to perform more accurately the canalith repositioning maneuver which is designed to help displace canalith crystals in the inner ear (which can cause vertigo) from the canals of the inner ear. According to Chiauzzi, after getting the patient comfortable on a therapy table with the goggles on, he is able to perform a series of head and neck maneuvers to dislodge the crystals.

After her first treatment, Chiauzzi identified crystals in both of Ellen’s ears and was able to heal one side. A follow-up appointment and another 15 minutes addressed the other.

“I was cured in two visits,” said Ellen.

“The infrared goggles are great,” said Chiauzzi. “I am able to capture video of the patients eye movement during the diagnosis and treatment and show them what I’m seeing. As I manipulate their head and neck, I am often able to dislodge the crystals resulting in one to two appointments.”

“If you think you are suffering from vertigo, I suggest you reach out to Mike,” said Ellen. “The process is easy, painless and best of all can cure you.”

For more information, please contact the Nashoba Valley Medical Center Vestibular Rehabilitation Program at 978-784-9350.

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