



Semicircular Canal Demonstration

1. Place a small square (2 cm x 2 cm) of paper, or another object that floats, in a cup of water. The cup represents the semicircular canal (in this case, the horizontal canal) and the water represents the fluid inside it. The paper is a marker that travels with the water.
2. Hold the cup firmly. Watch the paper marker as you rotate your body in a full circle to the left.
3. Repeat, rotating your body in a full circle to the right.

Questions

Does the fluid move in the same direction as the cup, the opposite direction, or not at all?

In the drawing below, imagine that you're rotating the semicircular canal clockwise (in the direction of the arrow). In what direction, if any, will the fluid inside the canal push on the sensory cells?

