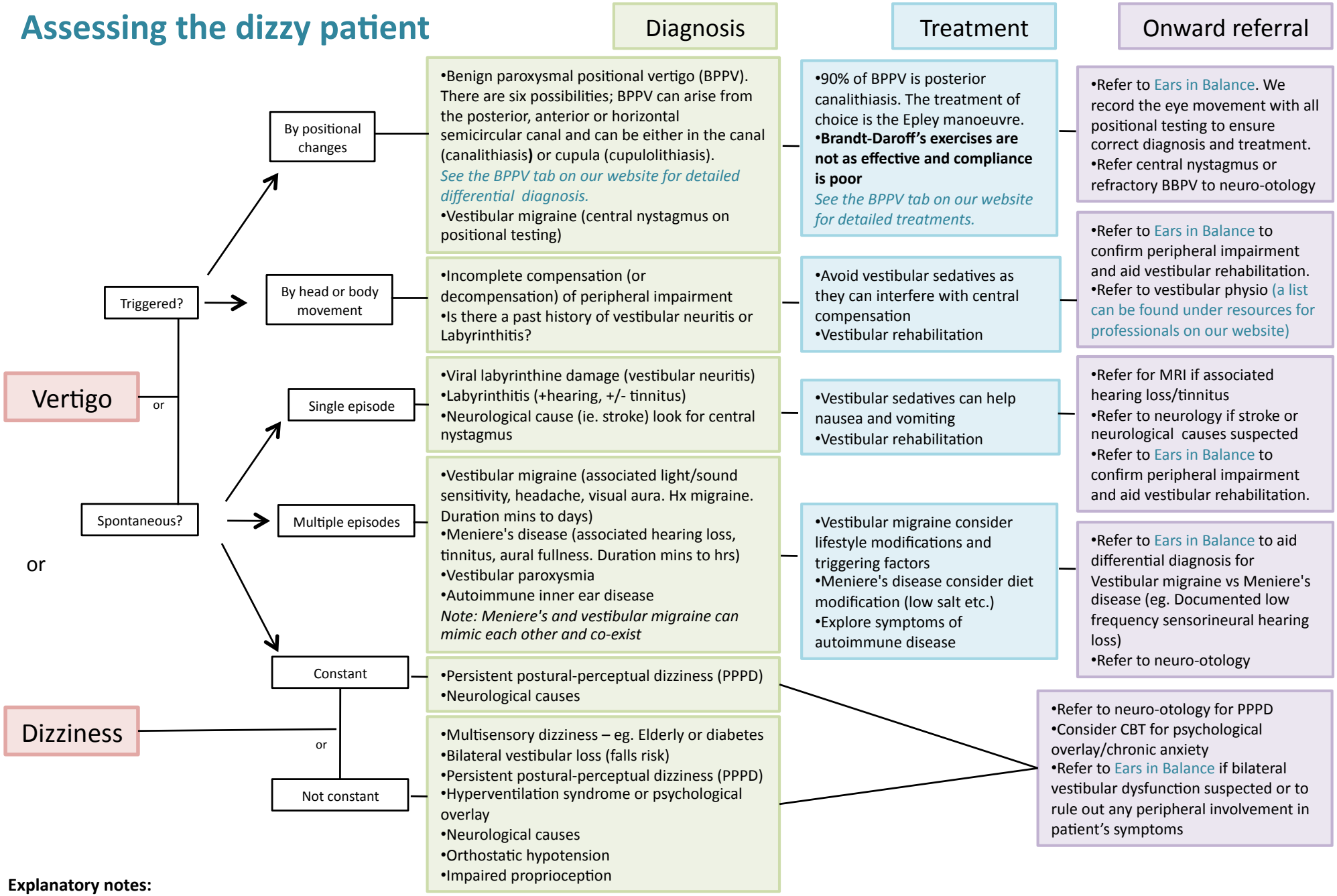
Assessing the dizzy patient



Explanatory notes:

Vertigo: Any false sensation of movement (spinning, rocking, a feeling of being pushed or feeling the body continues to move when still etc.). Most likely a vestibular disorder.

Dizziness: Altered sensation of spatial orientation, light headedness, faintness. Does not involve a sensation of movement when still. Not necessarily due to a vestibular disorder.

Central nystagmus: One or more of the following: bidirectional (changes direction with direction of gaze); vertical (usually downbeat – a cerebellar sign); nystagmus during Hallpike testing that does not fit with BPPV (vertical, persistent etc.) See the BPPV tab for more information on BPPV diagnosis and treatment.

This flowchart has been adapted from http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/