

In some cases the Rinne test can provide some additional information. This tests both bone and air conduction. The examiner places the butt of a vibrating tuning fork on the mastoid region, and when the patient ceases to hear the vibration, the examiner places the tines close to the external auditory meatus to check air conduction. Vibrations perceived through air are heard twice as long as those perceived through bone, so the normal individual reports, for example, hearing the bone vibration for 30 seconds and then continues to hear the vibration through air for another 30-60 seconds altogether. If there is conductive deafness, bony conduction is either normal or slightly enhanced, whereas air conduction is decreased. If there is neural deafness, both bone conduction and air conduction are equally suppressed. As with the watch tick, the examiner should compare the ability of both sides to perceive the fork. A comparison of the patient's ability to perceive the fork, as well as the watch tick, with the examiner's ability is also useful (Schwabach test).

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:59**

