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 **Physiology of Balance**

 The semicircular canals and the vestibules (utricle and saccule) are concerned with balance. Any change of position of the head causes movement in the perilymph and endolymph, which bends the hair cells and stimulates the sensory nerve endings in the utricle, saccule and ampullae. The resultant nerve impulses are transmitted by the vestibular nerve which joins the cochlear nerve to form vestibuocochlear nerve. The vestibular branch passes first to the vestibular nucleus, then to the cerebellum.

 The cerebellum also receives nerve impulses from the eye and proprioceptor (sensory receptors) in the skeletal muscles and joint. Impulses from these three sources are coordinated and efferent nerve impulses pass to cerebrum and to skeletal muscles. This result in awareness of body position, maintenance of upright posture and fixing of the eye on same point, independently of head movement.