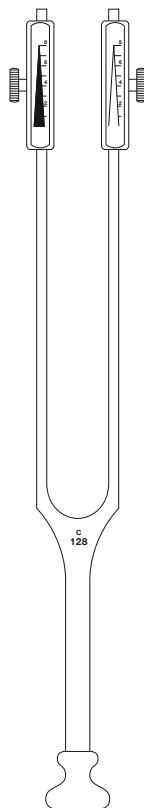




Tuning Fork with Case

Instructions for Use



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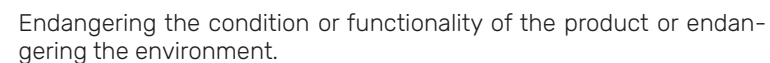
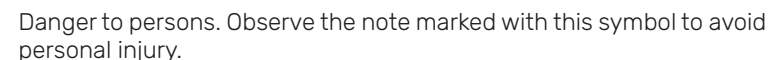
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About these instructions

Symbols used

These symbols are used in these instructions or on the product:



Product description

Declaration of Conformity

The tuning fork fulfils the requirements of the EC Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC and MDR 2017/745 and German national law in the form of the German Medical Devices Act (MDA).

Class I medical device
according to Annex IX MDD Class I (Rule 1)
according to Annex VIII MDR 2017 / 745 Class I (Rule 1)

Intended usage

The medical tuning fork is used to examine the foot area of people from 4 years of age. The prongs of the tuning fork act as a sound conduction source of air and bone conduction. The base of the tuning fork is placed on suitable parts of the body. Healthy areas of the skin, that are free of muscle or fatty tissue, are suitable.

User group

Medical practitioners or healthcare professionals with a qualification or training in the use of medical tuning forks.

Intended use / indications

The tuning fork can be used in various medical fields, such as neurological diagnostics. These include:

- › sensitivity tests
- › further diagnostic tests at the doctor's own discretion
- › Possible fields of application, which have been confirmed by studies, are:
 - › Neurology: nerve compression, polyneuropathy
 - › General medicine: diabetic foot ulcers, screening examinations for nerve impairment

Contraindications

Do not use on injured skin.

Do not use on the following persons:

- › Persons with a nickel allergy. The product contains nickel.
- › Children under 4 years of age
- › Persons with a known lack of sense of vibration.
- › Persons with sensory symptoms, sensory signs including the absence of a sense of vibration
- › Persons under the influence of drugs that may cause polyneuropathy or affect their cooperation

Side effects

No side effects or attendant symptoms are known.

Basic precautions



CAUTION

Examinations, with a medical tuning fork, may only be carried out by doctors or medical professionals and in compliance with the instructions for use.

If the product is damaged, it must not be used for examination as the result of the examination may be incorrect.



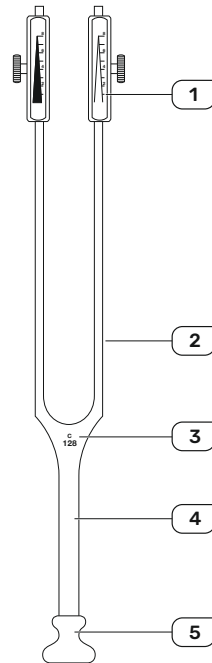
Immediately report any serious incidents that have occurred in connection with the product to the manufacturer.

Application basics

The Rydel-Seiffer tuning fork (named after Adam Rydel and Friedrich Wilhelm Seiffer), is a calibrated tuning fork (c 64 Hz and c 128 Hz) that can be used to examine impairments of the peripheral nervous system. The fact that the sensation of vibration (pallaesthesia) is the first to be impaired in the presence of a polyneuropathy (disease of peripheral nerves) is used here.

Causes of polyneuropathies can be, for example, diabetes mellitus, damage to the spinal cord or spinal nerves (e.g., in the case of paraplegia or a slipped disc), vitamin B12 deficiency, alcohol dependence or infections.

- 1 Removable damper with scale from 0 to 8 with knurled screw for fixation
- 2 Tines with marking on the side:
CE mark, MD symbol, LOT number
- 3 Frequency indication and logo of the manufacturer
- 4 Stem
- 5 Plastic base



Frequencies

The tuning fork according to Rydel-Seiffer produces vibrations of two different frequencies: With the dampers on, the tone C = 64 Hz (as marked on the dampers) and with the dampers off, the tone c = 128 Hz (as marked on the stem of the tuning fork).

To check for pallaesthesia, the tuning fork is used exclusively with the dampers on.

How to use

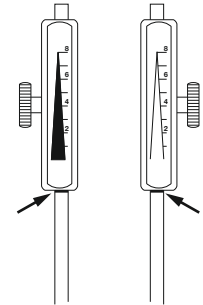
Take the tuning fork out of its packaging and check it for damage and signs of wear. Only use the tuning fork if it is not damaged. The smallest damage can influence the vibration frequency and thus produce an incorrect result.

Use: At room temperature.

Checking / adjusting the dampers

The lower edge of the dampers must be in line with the marking lines on the tines.

The dampers can be loosened or tightened using the knurled screws. During use, the knurled screws must be firmly tightened.



Striking the tuning fork

Hold the tuning fork by the black base with one hand. With the other hand, squeeze both vibrating tines together in the area of the dampers and then release the dampers.

Another possibility is to strike the tuning fork with the ball of the hand or a bony spot.

The tuning fork must not be struck against hard objects.

Applying the tuning fork

Immediately after striking the tuning fork, place the base of the tuning fork on areas of the skin under which there are prominent bone points, such as the elbow, the radial head or the inner ankle. The skin must be bare.

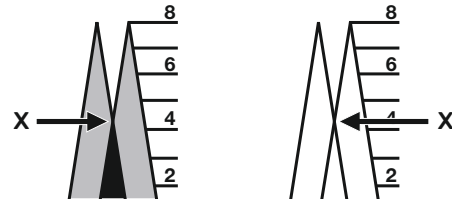
Reading the vibration intensity

The dampers are printed with a black and a white triangle with a scale from 2 to 8. Depending on the light conditions, it is easier to observe either the black or the white triangle.

By striking the tuning fork, the tines vibrate and two triangles appear on each damper.

As they fade out, the two triangles slowly slide over each other on a damper. The intersection of the two triangles slowly moves upwards.

This intersection point (X) indicates the vibration strength. Read off the value of the intersection point via the scale. If, for example, a value of "6" is read, one speaks of 6/8 (six eighths).



Practical application

To give the patient a feeling for the tuning fork test, the tuning fork is first placed on points where no disturbance is expected, e.g. elbows or finger joints. Now the vibration sensation in the area of the feet and lower leg can be assessed. The tuning fork is placed on the relevant bone points. The patient has to name the point in time when the slowly fading vibration is no longer noticeable to him/her. This moment is then read off with the help of the scale on one of the dampers.

The test is always carried out at several points and always in a right/left side comparison.

Measuring points

- › Tip of the big toe right – left
- › Metatarsophalangeal joint right – left
- › Inner ankle right – left
- › Front edge of shinbone right – left
- › Fibula head – left

Normal values

Although the measurement of pallesthesia is part of the neurological and, e.g., also diabetological routine examination, there is no clear information in the literature on standard values and standardised measurement points.

The following values generally apply as a guide:

- › In patients under 60 years of age, readings between 6/8 and 8/8 are normal.
- › In patients over 60 years of age, readings between 4/8 and 8/8 are normal.

Lower values should be clarified neurologically.

Cleaning after use

Clean the tuning fork after each use with a dry or slightly greasy cloth. Do not clean the tuning fork in a steriliser.

Disinfect the tuning fork after each use, especially the parts of the tuning fork that come into contact with patients. Use alcohol-based surface disinfectants and follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration and exposure time.

Packaging, storage, disposal

Packaging

The tuning fork is packed in a cardboard box.

Transport

No special requirements apply to transport.

Storage

The tuning fork must be stored in a dry place and protected from falling.

Disposal

If possible, separate the base from the rest of the tuning fork.
The metal part of the tuning fork must be disposed of at a scrap metal collection point.

Troubleshooting

Problem / Question	Possible cause / measure
Unexpected result	The dampers are not adjusted correctly. Check the position of the dampers, correct if necessary.
	Tuning fork worn or damaged. The tuning fork can no longer be used.
Clanging of the tuning fork while vibrating	The dampers are not fixed. Tighten the knurled screws.
Allergic reaction after skin contact	Use on injured skin. Only use on intact skin
	Nickel allergy. Stem and tines contain nickel.

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