

Clinical Tidbits

...for Physicians

Hearing Loss and HRQoL (Health Related Quality of Life)

Meta-analysis of data shows hearing aids improve adults HRQoL by reducing psychological, social, and emotional effects of sensorineural hearing loss.

Abstract: A systematic review with meta-analysis examined evidence pertaining to the use of hearing aids for improving HRQoL for adults with sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL). Relevant search strings applied to the CENTRAL, CINAHL, Cochrane Reviews, ComDisDome, EBMR, and PubMed databases identified randomized controlled trial, quasi-experimental, and nonexperimental prepost test designed studies. Sixteen studies met a priori criteria for inclusion in this review. A random-effects meta-analysis showed differential results for generic versus disease-specific HRQoL measures for within- and between-subject designs. Although generic measures used for within-subject designs did not demonstrate HRQoL benefits from hearing aids, mean effect sizes and confidence intervals for within-subject designs and disease-specific instruments suggested that hearing aids have a small-to-medium impact on HRQoL. Further, the between-subject studies supported at least a small effect for generic measures, and when measured by disease-specific instruments, hearing aids had medium-to-large effects on adults' HRQoL.

1. Chisolm, Theresa Hnath; Johnson, Carole E.; Danhauer, Jeffrey L.; Portz, Laural J.P.; Abrams, Harvey B.; Lesner, Sharon; McCarthy, Patricia A.; Newman, Craig W. *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology*, Volume 18, Number 2, February 2007, pp. 151-183(33)



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