

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Aim of study: To explore the association between chronic otitis media and sensorineural hearing loss and to correlate between age of patients & duration of disease on the development of sensorineural hearing loss.

Study design: Cross sectional study. **Sample size:** 100 **Study Period:** July 2014 – July 2015

Methods: Patients with COM will be selected consecutively as and when they present during the study period based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. A detailed history will be taken in all patients and then ENT examination will be carried out to determine the type of COM present. Pure Tone Audiometry will be done to assess for hearing deficit and type of loss. The hearing of the patient would be assessed by pure tone audiogram. Hearing loss upto 20 dB will be considered normal, 21-40 dB mild, 40-55 dB moderate, 55-70 dB moderately severe, 70-90 dB severe, and above 90 as profound. Categorical data will then be analyzed by chi-square test, to correlate the clinical analysis with respect to age of patient, duration of disease and the type of COM on the development of sensorineural hearing loss.

Inclusion Criteria: History of recurrent otorrhoea occurring within 5 years of the time of data of collection.

Exclusion Criteria: Patients in whom hearing loss can be attributed to reasons other than chronic otitis media Eg. Following traumatic perforation, history of long term intake of systemic ototoxic drugs, previous ear surgery, meningitis, enteric fever, head injury, diabetes mellitus, familial hearing loss, labyrinthitis, labyrinthine fistula are to be excluded from the study. Patients below the age of 15 years have been excluded due difficulty in obtaining an accurate audiological profile and those above the age of 60 years are not selected so as to exclude the possible effects of aging process. Patients not giving consent for the study.

Potential Risks of Study: Nil

Benefits: Data from study may mandate more vigilant detection and management of COM.