Original Research Paper

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An Audiological Evaluation of General Population Attending Government Ent Hospital ,Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam

Medical Science

KEYWORDS : Hearing loss, PTA, Impedance audiometry, Age related hearing loss.

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INTRODUCTION

Hearing loss in different individuals in a given period of time in different age groups as a part of statistics is being assessed in this paper. Percentage of people suffering from conductive and sensorinueral hearing loss is assessed including the sex variation and also the degree of hearing loss. The threshold of hearing is defined as pure tone average across the frequencies of 0.5 to 8 kHz. The degree of hearing loss is classified as profound: more than 90 dB , severe 71 – 90 dB, moderate to severe 56 – 70 dB, moderate 41 – 55 dB, mild 26 – 40 dB.

AIM

To evaluate the hearing threshold in the individuals attending Government ENT hospital, Visakhapatnam for period of 3 months.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is to evaluate the hearing loss in general population attending Government ENT hospital, Visakhapatnam for a period of about 3 months from January 2015 to March 2015.

1375 patients attending Government ENT Hospital with chief complaint of hearing loss were categorized basing on the sex, type of hearing loss and the type of tympanometry curve.1375 individuals are evaluated for hearing thresholds by using pure tone audiometry and impedance audiometry. Out of which 739 are male patients and 634 are female patients presenting with hard of hearing as chief complaint. Pure tone audiometry and Speech audiometry is performed to all the patients.

CONCLUSION

Incidence of hearing loss in the population is increasing irrespective of the advanced diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. Exposure to different irritating stimuli to the ears leads the main etiology. Irrespective of the age of the individuals the hearing loss is affecting all the urban as well as rural and sub urban population. Exposures to loud sounds and prolonged usage of mobile phones have increased exponentially leading to hearing loss in all ages of population directly and indirectly. This is leading to decreased speech perception in all ages.

Developing countries like India are affected more due to hearing loss. In developed and industrialized nations the more hearing loss is in the geriatric population leaving young individuals only to some extent. These are observed by the studies including European countries, Australia and Norrth America. India, China and Brazil contribute the major part of the population of the world. In a study by Liu at all in China, it is found that hearing loss in aged persons is lower than Swedish and other European countries