

DETERMINANTS OF HEARING LOSS 2004

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ABSTRACT

We conducted a case control study to find out the association between hearing loss and risk factors. Our methodology was to compare 40 cases of hearing loss as assessed by pure Tone Audiometry with 80 controls who did not have any hearing loss.

We collected data by approaching patients with an interview schedule

By using χ^2 test and Odds ratio we found out whether there is any association between hearing loss and the factors which we have taken into consideration. We found that according to χ^2 test the determinants Noise exposure ($\chi^2= 0.044$), Ear infection ($\chi^2= 0.004$), Surgery in ear ($\chi^2= 0.00$), Trauma to ear ($\chi^2= 0.00$) and Ototoxic drug intake ($\chi^2 =0.001$) proved to have a statistically significant association with hearing loss. The following factors were found to have an Odds ratio above 1 viz. Noise exposure (3.083) Ear infection (3.769) Trauma to ear (5.938) other diseases (1.485), Recurrent attacks of cold (1.353) Family history (1.216), Recurrent attacks of URI (1.406), Vascular disease (1.417) and Maternal age > 35 at the time of birth (2.053)

By doing logistic regression the following factors were found to be significant risk factor Ear infection ($p= 0.001$) Trauma to ear ($p= 0.000$).