



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Explanations for the Non-use of Hearing Aids in a Group of Older Adults. A Qualitative Study[☆]



María Guerra-Zúñiga,^{a,b,*} Felipe Cardemil-Morales,^{b,c} Nicolás Albertz-Arévalo,^b Maritza Rahal-Espejo^c

^a Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile

^b Doctorado en Salud Pública, Escuela de Salud Pública, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile

^c Servicio de Otorrinolaringología, Hospital Barros Luco Trudeau, Santiago, Chile

Received 14 March 2013; accepted 20 September 2013

KEYWORDS

Presbycusis;
Adhesion;
Hearing aids;
Qualitative methods

Abstract

Introduction: Hearing loss is a condition that affects communication and social insertion, increasing in frequency with increasing age. Explicit Health Guarantees (GES) have placed hearing loss in adults over the age of 65 years as a health priority in Chile, guaranteeing access to hearing aids to those who need it. However, it has been seen that adherence to their use is hampered by several factors.

Methodology: This was a qualitative study to find items related to the adherence to use of hearing aids. We performed individual and focus group interviews in the Department of Otolaryngology at a hospital in Santiago (Chile) from June to September 2012.

Results: Using hearing aids was positive for patients, perceiving an improvement in their relationship with the environment. The severity of hearing loss and the patient's own social life was relevant. For otolaryngologists and audiologists the study highlights the low patient perception of the need for hearing help. Discordance between expectations and the reality of patient adaptation is generated. Another relevant factor identified was the lack of a rehabilitation programme.

Conclusions: The elements that influence adherence are associated with 3 groups: patient factors, audiological factors and factors dependent on the health programme. The most important, from the perspective of patients, would be the fear of improper handling; for otolaryngologists, the socio-cultural perception of the hearing aid user as a disabled individual; for audiologists, inadequate prosthetic fitting and the lack of an appropriate rehabilitation programme.

© 2013 Elsevier España, S.L. All rights reserved.

[☆] Please cite this article as: Guerra-Zúñiga M, Cardemil-Morales F, Albertz-Arévalo N, Rahal-Espejo M. Explicaciones al no uso de audífonos en un grupo de adultos mayores de Santiago de Chile. Un estudio cualitativo. Acta Otorrinolaringol Esp. 2014;65:8–14.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: mariaguerra@med.uchile.cl (M. Guerra-Zúñiga).

PALABRAS CLAVE

Presbiacusia;
Adherencia;
Audífonos;
Métodos cualitativos

Explicaciones al no uso de audífonos en un grupo de adultos mayores de Santiago de Chile. Un estudio cualitativo

Resumen

Introducción: La hipoacusia es un trastorno que afecta la comunicación e inserción social, aumentando su frecuencia a mayor edad. Las garantías explícitas en salud (GES) han ubicado a la hipoacusia del adulto mayor de 65 años como una prioridad sanitaria en Chile, garantizándoles la entrega de audífonos a aquellos que lo requieran. Sin embargo, se ha visto que la adherencia a su uso se ve mermada por diversas razones.

Metodología: Estudio cualitativo para conocer los elementos relacionados a la adherencia del uso de audífonos. Se realizó entrevistas individuales y grupos focales desde junio a septiembre de 2012, en un Servicio de Otorrinolaringología de un Hospital en Santiago, Chile.

Resultados: Para pacientes el uso de audífonos ha resultado positivo, percibiendo una mejoría en su relación con el entorno, siendo relevantes la severidad de la hipoacusia y la vida social del mismo. Para otorrinolaringólogos y fonoaudiólogos destaca la baja percepción de necesidad de ayuda auditiva por parte de los pacientes. Se genera una discordancia entre expectativas y la realidad de adaptación del paciente. Además se identifica como factor relevante la falta de un programa de rehabilitación.

Conclusiones: Los elementos que influyen en la adherencia se asocian a tres grupos: factores de los usuarios, factores audiológicos, y factores dependientes del programa de salud. Los más relevantes, desde la perspectiva de usuarios serían el miedo a la incorrecta manipulación; desde los otorrinolaringólogos, la percepción sociocultural del usuario de audífono como discapacitado y los fonoaudiólogos, la inadecuada adaptación protésica y la falta de un programa de rehabilitación adecuado.

© 2013 Elsevier España, S.L. Todos los derechos reservados.

Introduction

Hearing loss and reduced auditory perception is a sensory disorder that affects communication, social inclusion and integration for people from all age groups, although prevalence increases as the population's life expectancy lengthens. Some figures estimate that between 30% and 46% of the elderly population suffers from this condition.¹ This percentage increases as age advances, reaching almost 50% in people 60 years and older, 60% for those in their 70s and 90% for those 80 years and older.² In Chile, according to the National Health Survey (NHS) from 2003, prevalence reached 48.5% in the general population (15 years or older), a figure that reaches nearly 90% in groups of patients older than 80 years.³

According to the Explicit Healthcare Guarantees (*GES* in Spanish), a national insurance programme of healthcare provisions in Chile, hearing loss in people 65 years or older is a priority. When faced with suspicion of hearing loss, elderly people should be referred for an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist assessment and audiometric evaluation to determine if they could benefit from using hearing aids and to guarantee them in the case that they are required.⁴

There are studies that report hearing aid implementation using the *GES* programme; however, for various reasons, these hearing aids are not used at all, or at least not as they should be.^{5,6} According to the same 2003 NHS, adherence to the use of hearing aids reached only 53%, even though the methodology used to obtain this figure was based on general questions about hearing in the general health context this survey addressed. Consequently, the lack of adherence to using hearing aids suggests that the objectives proposed by the programme are not being fulfilled, despite the

continual investment in and implementation costs of auditory support.

The elements that would explain less-than-ideal adherence to hearing aid use are several. Many studies have identified some of them, grouping them into 3 areas: factors related to the patient, factors attributed to the disease (hearing loss) and factors generated by the health facility that attends the patients.^{3,4} Among the factors associated with the patient, we find previous attitude towards using hearing aids, attitude towards one's own auditory loss, specific personality traits, expectations of improvement and experience from previous use. In addition, the following are patient-associated factors: motive compelling the patient to look for auditory assistance, concomitant presence of other physical impairments that affect activities in daily life, work situation and socioeconomic level. It is believed that age, gender and place of residence (house vs nursing home) can also have a degree of association.⁶

Among the factors associated with the healthcare facility, it becomes relevant to consider the implementation of different types of counselling and education for the patient with respect to hearing aid use in the pre and post-indication stages of use. This suggests the existence of a beneficial effect in adherence to its use. The concomitant use of medication on the patient's part suggests a negative relationship with adherence. However, there is little information on this available. On the other hand, the appearance of the hearing aid does not seem to influence adherence to its use.⁷ Finally, among factors attributed to the hearing loss itself, greater self-perception of hearing loss after starting to use hearing aids,^{8,9} as well as the severity of this reflected in the level of limitation in daily life, have both facilitated greater adherence to hearing aid use.⁹

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4100934>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4100934>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)