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TITLE PAGE

"Musical Ear Syndrome"- Musical hallucinations in a patient with severe Hearing Loss- A report

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Highlights

- Musical hallucinations are complex auditory hallucination where the patient hears continuous or intermittent musical tones and melodies
- Musical hallucination is a rare and heterogeneous entity in general hospital setting
- It is reported to be associated with impaired hearing, focal brain lesions, generalized brain atrophy, epilepsy, intoxications and psychiatric disorders
- Disinhibition of auditory memory circuits due to sensory deprivation is postulated as mechanism of development of musical hallucinations with hearing impairment

1. Introduction

Musical hallucinations are a specific type of complex auditory hallucinations where the patient hears continuous or intermittent musical tones and melodies in the absence of corresponding external acoustic stimulus (Sanchez et al., 2011). The condition has been known by many names like Musical Ear Syndrome, Musical hallucinosis, Oliver Sacks syndrome and the Auditory Charles Bonnet syndrome (Blom, 2010). Musical hallucination is a rare and heterogeneous entity in general hospital setting. Its prevalence has been reported as 0.16% among 3,678 psychiatric patients in two general hospitals (Fukumishi et al., 1998). Multiple conditions are associated in literature such as impaired hearing, focal brain lesions, generalized brain atrophy, epilepsy, intoxications and psychiatric disorders including depression, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (Vitorovic and Biller, 2013). However, the relative importance of each factor remains unclear. Also, it remains an underdiagnosed phenomenon and treatment remains a challenge. Hereby we present a case of an elderly female who presented with musical hallucinations associated with severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss and who showed a response to per oral olanzapine treatment.

2. Case Presentation

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