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From bench to bedside: What the current "chronic tinnitus" guideline means for hearing aid acousticians

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If you wish to treat tinnitus patients according to current scientific knowledge, you cannot avoid the recommendations of the AWMF guidelines for chronic tinnitus. This guideline is considered the gold standard when it comes to evaluating different therapeutic options for chronic tinnitus. Therapy interventions currently recommended include (1) counselling, (2) psychotherapeutic interventions, and (3) hearing enhancement interventions (hearing aids and hearing therapy). These are good news for all hearing aid acousticians because it puts the spotlight on the essence of their craft. Never before has this guideline provided such clear guidance.

From the perspective of years of practical experience in the care of tinnitus patients and from the perspective of scientific studies, this lecture is going to highlight the importance of (a) providing detailed information and education, (b) show how hearing aids with adequate hearing aid fitting and (c) hearing therapy can help to reduce the tinnitus burden within a short period of time, and (d) to recognise limitations that make the involvement of further professional competences necessary.

The lecture is aimed at all hearing aid acousticians who wish to raise their profile in the field of tinnitus.