

Prof. Dr. Josef Kessler
Cologne

How to assess the cognitive status of people with hearing loss

Introduction

In Germany, 20% of 60 to 69-year-olds, and 40% of 70 to 79-year-olds have hearing loss (HL) [1].

Current situation

Most cognitive tests assume an intact sensorium; this assumption may misjudge the performance of people with HL, and may result in pathologisation [2].

Motivation

Cognitive screenings for people with HL will be presented and compared.

Material and method

Cognitive tests for people with HL include the MMST for the hearing impaired, Hearing Impaired MoCA, MoCA Hearing Impaired, DemTectEar, and O-DEM. The DiCoDi is a tablet-based cognitive test battery for hearing impaired and older people. Data from the DiCoDi will be presented as an example.

Results

In a pilot project, the DiCoDi proved to be very valid and reliable as well as easy to administer and use (feasibility and usability). Convergent and divergent validity as well as retest reliability are good to very good. Recommendations for rapid cognitive tests will be suggested.

1. Völter et al. (2021) Dtsch Arztebl Int, 118
2. Völter et al. (2020) HNO, 68(3)