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Helix Hearing

Impact of degree of hearing loss, age and gender on self-reported incidence and degree of listening difficulty.

Rehabilitation expectations can exceed reality but what if audiologists can better prepare our patients for expected outcomes based on data?

Using the Personal Assessment of Communication Abilities (PACA) tool, where patient's rate their degree of listening difficulty across 12 common communication environments, data has been collected from over 6000 patients, along with audiometric, age and gender information.

Incidence and degree of listening difficulty was analysed for the normal hearing, mild hearing loss and moderate hearing loss groups. Each of these groups were further analysed for age and gender effects.

This data will allow audiologists to provide patients with age-appropriate expectations from the very early stages of the rehabilitation journey. Patients will be well-informed to determine whether the time and financial outlay to pursue rehabilitation is sufficiently beneficial. This additional counselling tool will likely result in improved hearing aid outcomes and reduced device return rates.