



Hearing Assessment is Not that Easy

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Hearing assessment is not that easy as it seems to be for most of people including otolaryngologists and even audiologists. Concerning pure tone audiometry (PTA), using the pure tone signal is not realistic. It is not the daily stimulus in our real life. Speech audiometry does not represent the real life situation too.

Hearing instruments users often complain that their hearing ability in real life is worse than the result of clinical assessment inside sound-treated booth. Therefore, competing noise signal is used during speech discrimination testing in a trial to imitate the external world that is rich in noise.

Regarding the COSI questionnaire -being the easiest one- sometimes, we cannot depend upon its results which may be inaccurate due to the patients' great expectations. Therefore, the degree of improvement becomes not satisfactory for them.

In addition to the above mentioned methods, we may be in need to confirm the results using objective tests such as auditory brain-stem response (ABR) or auditory steady state response (ASSR).

In conclusion, we should combine all of the available methods of hearing assessment to reach the best result for the most accurate diagnosis.

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