

45 minutes ONLINE Presentation

Ankara Turkey

Hearing aids for the elderly patient.

Subtitle: Impact of hearing aids for the elderly patient

Age-related hearing loss is ranked the 5th leading cause of disability across ages.

The prevalence of hearing loss increases with age and from 60 years of age 65% of adults are estimated to have hearing loss. We can assume that the majority of geriatric patients will have hearing loss.

Hearing loss is undertreated and the impact of hearing loss is underestimated. Hearing aids have been shown to have real impacts for elderly patients. The challenges we face in achieving a good and accepted hearing aid fitting for the elderly are small compared to the benefits of preserving social connection and interaction resulting from the treatment of hearing loss. The impact has benefits across many aspects of health. For example, social-emotional well-being is associated with longer life expectancy, better physical health, better mental health, better cognitive and emotional health.

Elderly patients with hearing impairment commonly report, more depressive symptoms, lower self-efficacy and mastery, more feeling of loneliness and smaller social networks than their normally hearing peers. The odds of falling increases with a more severe hearing loss.

Hearing loss has been reported to be the Number One modifiable risk factor for dementia even over hypertension and obesity. This paper will include new research from longitudinal studies which measure cognitive changes with and without hearing aids, the US ACHIEVE study and from Australia Sarant et al (2023).

The impact of hearing aids for the elderly patient cannot be underestimated.