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Investigation on cognitive ability of Chinese adults with self-reported hearing impairment over 45 years old

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Statement of the Problem: China has entered an aging society. We intend to analyze the cognitive capacity of self-reported hearing impaired people in China by analyzing the CHARLS database of Peking University's open research data platform.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The random number table method was used to randomly select the surviving subjects from the CHARLS database (baseline survey 2011). We divided them into six groups according to age, 45-50 years old, 51-55 years old, 56-60 years old, 61-65 years old, 66-70 years old and 71 years old or older. We analyzed the data, such as sample age, gender, self-reported hearing status, and cognitive ability.

Findings: A total of 8733 subjects were included, and 293 were excluded due to incomplete data and age less than 45 years. The average age was 62.1±13.6 years. The overall cognitive score was 13.27±6.58. The cognitive scores of self-reported hearing impaired and normal hearing groups were 10.4±6.5 and 13.5±6.5, respectively, and there was a statistical difference between them (p<0.001). In the normal hearing group, the cognitive scores of

the 45-50 years old group and the 71 years old group (14.6±6.7 points, 11.66±6.2 points) were statistically different from the other groups. Among subjects with self-reported hearing loss, the cognitive score of the 71-year-old group was statistically different from those of other age groups, and the differences among the other groups were not statistically significant.

Conclusion & Significance: The cognitive ability of Chinese elderly people tends to decline with age. The cognitive ability of the elderly with hearing impairment is worse than that of the same age group obviously.

Biography

Tao Lu is an ENT Doctor with over 10 years of practice experience. From 2016, he started his PhD career in West China School of Medicine at Sichuan University in China. Currently, he mostly focuses on diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of hearing problems, especially tinnitus. In the past 10 years, he has published a lot of papers in Chinese medical journals.

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