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Understanding Hearing Health

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Introduction

Audiology is a branch of science that investigates hearing, balance, and related diseases (from Latin audre, "to hear"; and Greek-o,-logia). Sound waves move through the ear canal to our eardrums. The eardrum and bones in the middle ear vibrate as a result of the sound waves. Audiologists help people with hearing loss and avoid further damage. Audiologists use a variety of testing procedures to evaluate whether someone has normal sound sensitivity (for example, behavioral hearing exams, otoacoustic emission measurements, and electrophysiologic exams). When hearing loss is discovered, audiologists determine which parts of the hearing system are affected (high, middle, or low frequencies), how severe the loss is (severity of loss), and where the lesion causing the hearing loss is located (outer ear, middle ear, inner ear, auditory nerve, and/or central nervous system).

If an audiologist discovers a hearing loss or a vestibular disorder, he or she will make recommendations for treatment or rehabilitation (e.g. hearing aids, cochlear implants, appropriate medical referrals). Audiologists can treat tinnitus, hyperacusis, misophonia, auditory processing disorders, cochlear implant use, and hearing aid use in addition to identifying audiological and vestibular illnesses. Audiologists can help people with their hearing health from birth to death. Audiologists can treat tinnitus, hyperacusis, misophonia, auditory processing disorders, cochlear implant use, and hearing aid use in addition to identifying audiological and vestibular illnesses. Audiologists can help people with their hearing health from birth to death. An audiologist is a health-care practitioner that specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of auditory and vestibular system abnormalities.

Audiologists are professionals that specialize in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of hearing, tinnitus, and balance issues. They provide, manage, and rehabilitate hearing aids, as well as test and map cochlear implant candidacy. They help late-deafened individuals learn coping and compensatory abilities as a result of a new diagnosis of hearing loss in newborns. They also assist in the development and implementation of personal and industrial hearing safety programs, newborn hearing screening programs, and school hearing screening programs, as well as the provision of special or custom-fit earplugs and other hearing protection devices to help prevent hearing loss. Audiologists are educated to assess peripheral vestibular problems caused by diseases of the inner ear's vestibular system.

Hearing loss is a widespread global health concern, affecting an estimated 10% of the world's population in some form or another. It can become a permanent impairment without proper diagnosis and intervention, with major effects for the affected persons' quality of life, society integration, and engagement.

Unfortunately, there is a global shortage of hearing healthcare services, highlighting the potential significance of telemedicine in reaching out to neglected populations. The diagnostic procedures described, such as audiometry, video-otoscopy, oto-acoustic emissions, and auditory brainstem response, confirm clinically similar outcomes for remote telehealth-enabled tests and traditional face-to-face examinations. The scant data on patient perceptions reveals varied results, necessitating more detailed investigations, including post-facto patient experience surveys. Tele-audiology has a lot of potential for reaching out to marginalized areas, but it will need a lot of empirical investigation before it can be used.

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