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A study to assess the functional abilities and quality of life (QOL) among the adult patients with hearing loss and their perspective towards use of hearing aid in selected hospitals of Udupi district, Karnataka

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"ABSTRACT

"A descriptive study to assess the assess the functional abilities and quality of life (QOL) among the adult patients with hearing loss and their perspective towards use of hearing aid in selected hospitals of Udupi district, Karnataka." was conducted by Shalini in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Nursing at Manipal College of Nursing Manipal, MAHE.

The objectives of the study were to assess the functional abilities among the patients with hearing loss, assess the quality of life among the patients with hearing loss, assess the perspective towards use of hearing aid among the patients with hearing loss, assess the relationship between the QOL and functional ability and assess the relationship between QOL and perspective towards use of hearing aid.

The conceptual framework adopted for the study was based on Wilson and Cleary health related quality of life model (1995).

A quantitative survey approach and descriptive survey design were adopted for the research study. The samples were patients with hearing loss visiting to the Speech and Hearing department of Kasturba Hospital, Manipal.

Data were obtained using demographic proforma, functional ability checklist to measure the functional abilities, WHO QOL-BREF scale to assess the quality of life and perspective towards use of hearing aid were measured by perspective likert scale. The analysis of the data was done using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science) 16.0 version by using descriptive and inferential statistics. The study findings revealed that (31.1%) of the patients with hearing loss belongs to the age group of 61-70 years. Most (59.1%) were male. Most (41.7%) of the participants had primary education. Majority (82.6%) of the participants were having a monthly income between Rs.5000-10000. Majority (86.4%) of the participants were married. Majority (97%) of the patients had no family history of hearing loss. Majority (87.1%) of the participants were not taking any medications. Most (40.9%) of the participants had tinnitus. Majority (84.1%) of the participants were not having other comorbidities. Most (43.9%) of the participants were having mixed hearing loss and moderate hearing loss (42.4%).

The study findings revealed that the most of the patients (49.2%) were in the category of independent functional ability, however (7.6%) of patients were complete dependent in their functional status.

The majority of patients (57.6%) rated their QOL as good and majority of patients (57.6%) were satisfied with their health. The patients with hearing loss had higher quality of life in physical domain (Mean 73) and low quality of life on environmental domain (Mean 64).

Among the patients who were using hearing aids majority (66.7%) were strongly agreed to the statement, 'hearing aid provide improved sound quality to the hearing loss patient'. Most of the patients (66.7%) disagree to the statement, 'hearing loss will worsen if hearing aid is used'.

Among the patients who were not using hearing aids majority (76.7%) were strongly agreed to the statement, 'hearing aid provide improved sound quality to the hearing loss patient'. Most of the patients (72.9%) disagree to the statement, 'hearing loss will worsen if they use hearing aid'. Most of the patient (61.2%) disagree to the statement, 'hearing aids are so expensive'.

The study findings further revealed that there was a significant positive relationship between domains of quality of life and functional ability. Thus, it was interpreted that as functional ability increases QOL also improves.

The study population was limited to only the patients visiting to the Kasturba hospital. Hence the study findings cannot be generalized. However, this study has implications to nursing practice, research, education and administration. Further interventional studies can be done to assess the effectiveness of any intervention in improving the quality of life of the patients with hearing loss.