

Glossary

Glossary of audiology data terms

Hearing

Hearing is the sense for perceiving sounds and includes regions within the brain where the signals are received and interpreted.

Otitis media

It is a condition with any inflammation, fluid or suppurative infection in the middle ear.

Suppurative

Describes pus produced in response to inflammatory bacterial infections.

Eustachian tube dysfunction

Negative middle ear pressure associated with compromised equalisation impeding middle ear function and causing middle ear fluid accumulation.

Acute otitis media

Describes presence of suppurative (infected) middle ear fluid with intact bulging or recent discharge and or bulging eardrum. May have associated symptoms or signs of infection that include discharge, pain, fever, irritability, vomiting or diarrhoea

Otitis media with effusion

It is the presence of intact eardrum and middle ear fluid without symptoms or signs of infection.

Chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM)

It is a persistent suppurative discharge from middle ear through a tympanic membrane perforation for more than 6 weeks.

Dry perforation

It refers to a CSOM condition that presents as a hole in the eardrum without any evidence of suppurative otitis media (either acute or chronic).

Persistent

It refers to a hearing loss or otitis media condition that is demonstrated to have been present for 3 months or longer.

Otoscopy

It is the clinical skill of examining the outer and middle ear, including the eardrum, using an otoscope/ auriscope.

Tympanometry

It is an examination used to test the condition of the middle ear and mobility of the eardrum and the conduction bones. It is an objective test of middle-ear function and provides a measure of energy transmission through the middle ear.

Audiometry/ pure tone audiometry

It is the standard technique of testing hearing ability. Pure tone audiometry records a subjective response to threshold (softest) sound stimuli presented through headphone,

bone conductor or speaker at discrete frequencies essential for detecting and discriminating speech. Any response deviation from the normal range, at any sound stimuli, in either ear, is described as a hearing loss and the type of hearing loss is diagnosed.

Visual reinforce observation audiometry (VROA)

It is a hearing assessment technique using specialised sound field facilities that is appropriate for smaller children and babies 9 – 36 months). When able to sit and turn head independently children can be conditioned to repeatedly and reliably respond to frequency specific warble tones, presented via speaker, headphone or bone conductor. This conditioned response is reinforced through provision of a visual reward (puppet) to obtain threshold (softest) measures. Results obtained via speaker (standard test) do not provide separate ear information but determine adequacy of hearing for speech and language development and reflect the better ear.

Hearing loss

It describes any hearing threshold response (using audiometry) outside the normal range, at any sound stimuli, in either ear. Hearing loss in a population describes the number of children who have abnormal hearing. Hearing loss may affect one ear (unilateral) or affect both ears (bilateral).

Fluctuating hearing loss

It refers to hearing loss that changes significantly over time resulting in inconsistent auditory input. Conductive hearing loss is often associated with fluctuations related to changes in the otitis media condition or the impact it is having on sound conduction through the middle ear.

Hearing impairment

It is classification gives estimate of degree of handicap associated with hearing loss in the better ear and links to predicted consequences and recommended rehabilitation. Hearing impairment classification applies a graded scale mild, moderate, severe and profound, based on degree of deviation from normal thresholds in the “better ear” as recorded through audiometry. During data collection it is calculated as a 3 frequency average (3FA) of the threshold of hearing loss (HTL) at 500Hz, 1000Hz and 2000Hz and is only applied to further describe bilateral hearing loss. It is based on pure tone audiometry on the test day and does not account for language, processing, environmental and early onset factors.

Mild hearing impairment

It is predicted to cause problems with hearing some speech components (below threshold), hearing in background noise, hearing over distance, understanding soft voices and understanding non first (native) language speakers. Speech sounds will easily become inaudible and the listening environment is critical for enabling audibility of speech sounds for oral English, literacy and numeracy. Classroom amplification in combination with appropriate acoustic improvements for noise reduction is demonstrated to offer benefit for mild hearing impairment at school. Individual amplification may also be considered.

Moderate hearing impairment

It is predicted to make most average conversational speech unintelligible, when relying on hearing alone, even in ideal listening conditions. Individuals with this degree of hearing impairment are dependent on complimentary information including visual cues (lip-reading, body language and hand talk) raised speech volume (amplification) and contextual cues. Moderate hearing impairment has major consequences for speech,

language, communication, cognition, literacy, numeracy and auditory processing capabilities.

Severe and profound hearing impairment

It results in all conversational speech sounds being inaudible. Individual amplification required for language acquisition and some children may use sign language as main communication mode.

None hearing impairment

It refers to children where the better hearing ear has an average threshold at 500Hz, 1000 Hz and 2000Hz that is within the normal range for the test conditions. These children may have unilateral hearing loss or hearing loss at frequencies outside this range.

Sensorineural hearing loss

It is a deviation of hearing threshold from the normal range attributable to problems in the inner ear or vestibulocochlear nerve.

Conductive hearing loss

It describes a deviation of hearing threshold from normal associated with reduced conduction of sound through the outer ear, tympanic membrane (eardrum) or middle ear including ossicles (middle ear bones).

Mixed hearing loss

It is a hearing loss that has conductive and sensorineural components combined.

Glossary of dental data terms

Diagnostic

Examinations (initial, periodic and emergency oral exams; consultations; written reports; referrals).

Radiographical examination and interpretation (intraoral radiographs; skull radiographs)

Other diagnostic services (bacteriological examination; antibiotic sensitivity test; biopsy; casts).

Preventative

Dental prophylaxis (removal of plaque; removal of calculus; recontouring of existing restorations).

Topical fluoride (application of fluoride solution or gel; instruction on self-application).

Other preventive services (dietary advice; oral hygiene instruction; fissure sealing; mouthguards).

Periodontics

Treatment of gums (treatment of acute infection; root planing; surgical removal of soft tissue).

Surgery

Extractions (removal of permanent or deciduous tooth, tooth fragment).

Surgical extractions (removal of erupted, unerupted tooth; incision; removal of bone fragments).

Surgery for prostheses (preparation for removable prosthesis).

Treatment for maxillo-facial injuries (repair of skin; wiring of teeth).

Endodontics

Pulp treatments (pulp capping; pulpotomy; extirpation or debridement of root canal)

Periradicular surgery (periapical curettage; apicectomy)

Other endodontic services (bleaching; removal of root filling)

Restorative

Amalgams (filling of 1, 2, 3+ surfaces).

Glass ionomer, silicate and composite resins (filling of 1, 2, 3+ surfaces).

Gold foil (filling of cavity with small increments of gold foil).

Inlays/onlays (construction and insertion of inlay or onlay).

Other restorative services (recementing of inlay; temporary filling, crown, bridge).

Crown and bridge

Crowns (resin; porcelain; gold jacket; amalgam core for crown; cast post).

Bridges (enamel bonded – metal frame, cast metal and porcelain, cast metal and resin).

Repairs and other services (recementing crown, bridge; removal of crown; repair of crown).

Prosthetics

New dentures and denture components (upper and lower, partial dentures; tooth replacement).

Denture maintenance (adjustment; relining; remodelling; rebasing).

Denture repairs (reattaching tooth; replacing clasp; repairing base).

Implant prostheses (implants to stabilise and retain prostheses).

Occasion of service

Refers to occasions of examination, consultation, treatment or other service provided to a patient.

Orthodontics

Removable appliances (passive, active; one, two arches).

Fixed appliances (partial, full arch banding; space maintainer).

Extra-oral appliances (harness appliances).

Attachments (restoration with wire hook).

Other

Emergencies: palliative emergency treatment; sedative dressing.

Drug therapy: drug administration – intravenous, intramuscular, oral; drug prescription.

Professional visits: professionals visit patient at their home or hospital.

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