

Study shows prevalence of hearing loss significantly higher for cancer survivors

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Cancer survivors have a significantly higher prevalence of hearing loss

(HL) than the general population, according to a study published online Oct. 5 in *JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*.

Qian Wang, M.D., M.P.H., from the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center in Cleveland, and colleagues estimated the prevalence of subjective and objective HL by audiometry test among [cancer](#) survivors compared with the general population in a cross-sectional study.

In addition, the performance of subjective HL questions as a tool for screening for objective HL was evaluated. Data were included for 9,337 adults aged 20 to 80 years who had audiometry testing and responded to a hearing questionnaire; 10.3% were cancer survivors.

The researchers found that cancer survivors had a higher prevalence of troublesome hearing, tinnitus, speech-frequency HL, and high-frequency HL compared with the [general population](#) (adjusted odds ratios [95% confidence intervals], 1.43 [1.11 to 1.84], 1.28 [0.94 to 1.74], 1.43 [1.11 to 1.85], and 1.74 [1.29 to 2.34], respectively).

The age- and gender-adjusted area under the curve was 0.88 in detecting speech-frequency HL and 0.90 in detecting high-frequency HL when using the subjective HL tool and questioning whether the participants were having troublesome hearing and/or tinnitus in screening for HL.

"The findings of this study suggest that, among [cancer survivors](#), the use of subjective HL questions may be useful for identifying individuals with true HL and guiding early referral and intervention," the authors write.

More information: Qian Wang et al, Subjective and Objective Hearing Loss Among US Adult Cancer Survivors, *JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamaoto.2023.2941](#)

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