

ABSTRACT

Vertigo is a major cause of morbidity worldwide, and is frequently due to endolymphatic hydrops manifesting as Meniere's Disease. Over the past four years, thirty two patients have presented to the Edinburgh Balance Clinic with intractable vertigo and have undergone intratympanic gentamicin (ITG) application to produce a chemical labyrinthectomy. Although many studies have shown that an improvement in vertiginous symptoms is often associated with a profound sensorineural hearing loss, little research has been conducted into whether a relationship exists between the extent of vertigo improvement and the degree of hearing deterioration. Audiometry data from both pre- and post- ITG application was analysed in conjunction with results from a questionnaire that was distributed to all patients.

According to the questionnaire, 97% of patients reported an improvement in their vertigo with over a third (39%) experiencing complete resolution of symptoms. Hearing had worsened in 52% of those questioned This compares to 38% one month post-procedure, based on audiometry results. No significant relationship was found between the extent of vertigo improvement and concomitant hearing change. Further research is required with a larger cohort of patients to explore this avenue of treatment more fully.