

## **The Management of Hearing Impaired Saudi Children. An Epidemiological Survey**

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**Objectives:** To study the management of hearing impaired Saudi children. This investigation was a part of an epidemiological study of hearing.

**Methods:** Nine thousand five hundred and forty Saudi children below 15 years of age were surveyed. Each child was examined for hearing and various measures used for management of hearing impairment are discussed.

**Results:** Among the 9540 Saudi children surveyed, 1241 (13%) had hearing impairment and 782 (8%) were at risk of hearing impairment. A total of 1560 children received different treatment for the management of their hearing problems. Most of them were treated with systemic administration of drugs (50.83%) followed by surgical treatment (35.57%) for those who did not respond to conservative treatment. Topical drug administration was given to 21.47% of the children and hearing aids were chosen for 5.83%. Education and training methods were used in 4.61%.

**Conclusion:** It was observed that hearing impaired children required more than one modality for the proper management, whereas only one modality was effectively used for children at risk. Preventive measures e.g. family counseling, attendance of antenatal care of pregnant women, immunization, encouraging hospital delivery and early and proper management of pre, peri and postnatal infections and disorders has been highlighted.

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