

Chemical Exposure as a Risk Factor for Hearing Loss

<http://journals.lww.com/joem/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=2003&issue=07000&article=00003&type=abstract>

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Tinnitus also came up on Google search so must be mentioned in the full article

Continued Medical Education



Abstract

Learning Objectives:

- * Discuss the interaction of noise and exposure to industrial chemicals in compromising auditory function.
- * Present what is known about possible mechanisms of noise- and chemical-induced ototoxicity.
- * Compare the merits of various test procedures that might help in assessing chemical-induced hearing loss.

In 2002, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the National Hearing Conservation Association cosponsored the Best Practices Workshop: Combined Effects of Chemicals and Noise on Hearing. This article summarizes the main results of the Workshop. Its goals were to review the knowledge of chemical ototoxicity and to stimulate participant discussion on how to address this risk. Speakers provided an overview of the effects of chemicals on the auditory system

(<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/noise/noiseandchem/noiseandchem.html>). Research

priorities were discussed in concurrent working group sessions. The Workshop concluded with a panel of the groups' facilitators reporting on these sessions. The following key issues were identified: rationale and proposal of a list of priority chemicals; valid procedures for exposure (animal studies), exposure assessment, and audiological testing; need for mechanistic research and a Response Level; recommendations for preventive actions; and information dissemination.