

**THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF PEDIATRICIANS
REGARDING THE DIAGNOSIS AND INTERVENTION OF
INFANTS AND CHILDREN WITH A SENSORINEURAL
HEARING LOSS**

By
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SUMMARY

TITLE	The knowledge and attitude of pediatricians regarding the diagnosis and intervention of infants and children with a sensorineural hearing loss
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The pediatric audiology landscape changed dramatically with the advances in screening and diagnostic procedures, amplification possibilities and early identification outcomes. Pediatricians play a key role in this rapidly developing field. The aim of this study was to investigate Pediatricians' knowledge and attitudes regarding the diagnosis and intervention of infants and children with a sensorineural hearing loss. A questionnaire was compiled to obtain the relevant empirical data. This was distributed to 257 pediatricians in the Gauteng Province. Of the 257 questionnaires only 47 could be utilised. According to the results obtained from the pediatricians it appears that the respondents possess adequate knowledge regarding the diagnosis and intervention of infants and children with sensorineural hearing loss. This is despite having received limited or no information and training on this subject. As is discussed in Chapter 4 it became evident that knowledge gaps were found to exist. The pediatrician is an important team member of the hearing intervention team. Their involvement is crucial and their referral can be the important stepping-stone for early identification and intervention. A lack of skills and proficient knowledge is a major constraint during the implementation of efficient primary health care services in developing countries. Throughout the

results of this study, it is found that pediatricians have a need for additional information and training in the intervention process of infants and children with sensorineural hearing loss, therefore showing a positive attitude towards continuous education. This is based on the results found throughout the study, in terms of a void in certain areas surrounding effective intervention of hearing loss. The aim of the study was to highlight areas of uncertainty that the respondents might experience and to provide educational programmes in order to equip them with the relevant knowledge with regards to sensorineural hearing loss. The findings of this study would hopefully encourage future research and a more in-depth study regarding this topic.

List of keywords: Amplification, Attitude, Continuous education, Developing countries, Diagnostic procedures, Educational programmes, Hearing intervention team Intervention, Knowledge, Primary health care, Screening procedures, Sensorineural hearing loss

OPSOMMING

TITEL	Die kennis en houding van pediaterse rakende die diagnose en intervensie van neonate en kinders met 'n sensories-neurale gehoorverlies
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Pediatriese oudiologie het dramaties verander in terme siftings- en diagnostiese prosedures, gehoorapparaat (versterkings) moontlikhede en vroeë identifikasie van kinders. Pediaterse vertolk 'n sleutel rol in die vinnig ontwikkelende veld. Die doel van die studie was om ondersoek in te stel na pediaterse kennis en houding rakende die diagnose en intervensie van babas en kinders met 'n sensories-neurale gehoorverlies. Daar is gebruik gemaak van 'n vraelys om al die relevante en verlangde inligting te verkry. Die vraelyste is uitgestuur na 257 pediaterse regoor Gauteng Provinsie. Van die 257 vraelyste kon slegs 47 suksesvol aangewend word vir die studie. Volgens die resultate blyk dit dat die respondente oor genoegsame kennis beskik van die diagnose en intervensie van babas en kinders met 'n sensories-neurale gehoorverlies. Dit is ten spyte van beperkte of geen opleiding rakende die onderwerp. Soos volledig in Hoofstuk 4 bespreek word, het kennisleemtes egter wel in sekere van die vrae na vore gekom. Die pediater is 'n belangrike lid van die gehoor-intervensie span. Hul betrokkenheid is krities en hul verwysing na relevante persone is die begin punt vir vroeë identifikasie en intervensie. Beperkte kennis en vaardighede is een van die grootste beperkinge tydens die implementering van effektiewe primêre gesondheids dienste in ontwikkelende lande. Die implikasie hiervan dui uit die studie dat regtydige

vewysing en behandeling van die pasiënt met sensories-neurale gehoorverlies negatief beïnvloed kan word. Die resultate dui egter ook aan dat die respondente 'n behoefte het vir addisionele inligting en opleiding in die intervensie proses van neonate en kinders met 'n sensories-neurale gehoorverlies. Verder dui die studie op 'n positiewe houding aangaande deurlopende opleiding. Die doel van die studie was om areas van onsekerheid by die respondente uit te lig en om daarvolgens opleidings programme daar te stel om hulle sodoende met die relevante kennis te bemagtig. Die bevindinge van die navorsings studie moet toekomstige navorsing rakende die onderwerp aanmoedig.

Lys van sleutelwoorde: Deurlopende opleiding, Diagnostiese prosedures, Gehoor-intervensie span, Houding, Intervensie, Kennis, Ontwikkelande lande, Opleidingsprogramme, Primêre gesondheids dienste, Sensories-neurale gehoorverlies, Siftings prosedures, Versterkings moontlikhede,

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