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The applicability of the tinnitus and hearing survey (THS) in the differentiation of tinnitus and hearing complaints

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Purpose: to verify the applicability of tinnitus and hearing survey (THS) to measure and differentiate complaints of tinnitus, hearing loss and sound tolerance. **Methods:** THS was performed, composed by 4 questions about tinnitus, 4 about hearing loss and one about sound tolerance. Previously, all participants performed a battery of audiological diagnostic tests and then divided into 4 groups: Bilateral normal audiometry with mean up to 25dB, with and without tinnitus complaint (Groups 1 and 3); diagnosis of mild to moderate neural sensory hearing loss (26dB to 60dB), no previous use of individual hearing aids, complaining of chronic tinnitus (≥ 6 months) and, individuals without tinnitus complaints (Groups 2 and 4); and age ≥ 18 years old. **Results:** Seventy subjects were included in this study. Regarding the analysis of the total between the groups by the Kruskal-Wallis test, significant differences were found in sections about tinnitus and hearing Loss, but there was no significance in section of sound tolerance. Regarding the questions in Section A of the THS, only groups 3 and 4 scored. Regarding the questions related to section B about hearing loss, the groups without hearing loss (groups 1 and 3) scored the lowest. In relation to the question of THS of section C, group 3 scored the highest. **Conclusions:** The THS questionnaire proved to be a useful, quick, and simple tool to assist the audiologist in the understanding and differentiation of the audiological complaints.

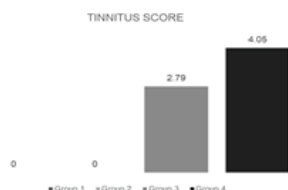


Figure 1- Representative graph of the average of the answers to the questions about tinnitus of the THS among the 4 groups.

Caption: Group 1 = no tinnitus and no hearing loss; Group 2 = with hearing loss and without tinnitus; Group 3 = no hearing loss and tinnitus; Group 4 = with hearing loss and tinnitus; Kruskal-Wallis ($p < 0.05$)*.

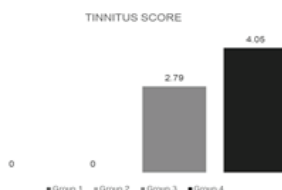


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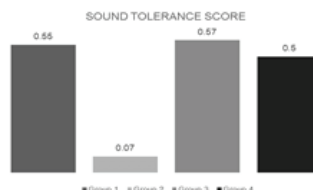


Figure 3- Representative graph of the average of the answers to the question about THS sound tolerance among the 4 groups.

Caption: Group 1 = no tinnitus and no hearing loss; Group 2 = with hearing loss and without tinnitus; Group 3 = no hearing loss and tinnitus; Group 4 = with hearing loss and tinnitus; Kruskal-Wallis ($p < 0.05$)*.

Biography

Amanda Rodrigues Scheffer is the faculty of the University of Sao Paulo (USP) and also the faculty of Dentistry of Bauru. She has done her postgraduate program in audiology and speech therapy from Bauru, Brazil. The major objective of her survey was to verify the applicability of THS to measure and differentiate complaints of tinnitus, hearing loss, and sound tolerance.

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