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INVOLVING OLDER PEOPLE RESEARCH PROGRAMME (IOP)

The use and misuse of Auditory Profiles

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The use and misuse of Auditory Profiles

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Summary

Older people often report listening difficulties in everyday situations. However, despite the recent modernisation of hearing aid services, there is significant evidence that older adults will often delay seeking help from Audiology services.

Aims

The study had two aims:

- 1) Firstly, we were interested in trying to determine what barriers and obstacles exist that may prevent older people from accessing Audiology services; specifically we were also interested in what makes them decide to seek help.
- 2) Secondly, we asked whether standard hearing tests really “capture” the real world experience of the older adult? Are there other tests that we could use that would be more beneficial to older adults?

Findings

- All participants had permanent hearing losses of varying severity in at least one ear (9/10 cases had a hearing loss in both ears)
- One of the tests used in the assessment, the Random Gap Detection Tests, yielded results that could not be predicted from Pure Tone Audiometry results. Pure Tone Audiometry is the standard test used in audiological profiles.

Five themes emerged from the interviews with older people about hearing loss and auditory services:

- Adapting to hearing loss
- Gathering information
- Living with hearing loss
- Accessing services
- Using personal experience

If you would like to request a copy of the FINAL REPORT, please complete the form overleaf and return to:

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The Outcomes and a Final Report from this research project will be widely published and can also be viewed on our website at http://www.qmu.ac.uk/copa/publications/research_reports.htm