

Applicant

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Project Title

The Association Between Hearing Loss and Social Function in Older Canadians

Project Summary

Hearing loss may interfere with a person's social functioning by preventing communication with others. Reduced social function, in turn, may increase early mortality, cardiovascular disease, and dementia. The links between hearing and social function have not been adequately studied. If there truly is a causal link, then preventing or mitigating hearing loss may result in a broad range of positive social and health outcomes. The prevalence of adult onset hearing loss is increasing rapidly, and by 2030, it may be the 9th most disabling global health problem. Our study aims to measure, in a cross-sectional sample of Canadians aged 45-85, the association between hearing and social function indicators including network diversity, availability of social support, participation in social activities, and feelings of loneliness. We also aim to determine which types of people with hearing loss (if any) are at higher risk of having poor social outcomes.

Keywords

Hearing loss; social isolation; social participation; social support.