

## SURVEY

There are a total of 18 multiple-choice questions divided into two sections that pertain to: 1) trends in Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) management; 2) demographic information. When answering the questions, unless specifically indicated as SSNHL, “hearing loss” refers to a perceived hearing impairment that has not yet been differentiated as either conductive or sensorineural in nature.

### **Questions Assessing Trends in SSNHL Management**

1. According to *your* definition, sudden sensorineural hearing loss (SSNHL) is defined as hearing loss that can develop over a period of:
  - a. Less than 24 hours
  - b. 48 hours
  - c. 72 hours
  - d. 7 days
2. Which of the following referrals do you make upon presentation of suspected unilateral SSNHL? Check all that apply.
  - a. Labwork
  - b. CT
  - c. MRI
  - d. Audiological evaluation
  - e. Otolaryngology consultation
  - f. Neurology consultation
  - g. Emergency Department
3. In your practice, does unilateral, sudden-onset hearing loss warrant *urgent* referral for audiological testing?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
4. In your practice, does unilateral SSNHL warrant *urgent* referral to otolaryngology?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
5. When presented with unilateral, acute or sudden-onset hearing loss, do you attempt to differentiate between conductive and sensorineural hearing loss?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
6. Do you use tuning fork tests to differentiate between conductive and sensorineural hearing loss?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

7. Do you feel confident in administering and interpreting the results of tuning fork tests to differentiate between conductive hearing loss and sensorineural hearing loss?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
8. Do you feel comfortable interpreting a formal audiogram to differentiate between a conductive hearing loss and sensorineural hearing loss?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
9. When presented with unilateral, sudden-onset hearing loss, which of the following do you use to inform management decisions? Check all that apply.
  - a. Otoscopy
  - b. Case history
  - c. Tuning fork test(s)
  - d. Audiological evaluation
  - e. Labwork
10. As a family physician, which of the following pharmacologic agents do you prescribe as treatment when presented with *suspected* unilateral SSNHL, prior to confirmation with audiological testing? Check all that apply.
  - a. Corticosteroids
  - b. Antivirals
  - c. Thrombolytics
  - d. Vasodilators
  - e. Other (e.g. antibiotics)
  - f. None of the above
  - g. I do not prescribe any pharmacologic agents when presented with suspected SSNHL
11. As a family physician, which of the following pharmacologic agents do you prescribe as treatment when presented with *confirmed*, unilateral SSNHL? Check all that apply.
  - a. Corticosteroids
  - b. Antivirals
  - c. Thrombolytics
  - d. Vasodilators
  - e. Other (e.g. antibiotics)
  - f. None of the above
  - g. Family physicians should not prescribe any treatment for SSNHL
12. Which of the following topics *do you* include as part of counselling to patients presenting with unilateral SSNHL? Check all that apply.
  - a. Possible causes
  - b. Available treatment options and associated risks/benefits
  - c. Impact on Quality of Life
  - d. Rehabilitation options (e.g. hearing aids)

- e. None of the above
- f. I do not counsel patients presenting with SSNHL as I am rarely certain of the diagnosis upon initial presentation

### **Demographic Questions**

13. Years in practice
  - a. Less than 5 years
  - b. 5 – 10 years
  - c. 11 – 15 years
  - d. 16 – 20 years
  - e. More than 20 years
14. The geographical region in which you primarily serve patients would be considered:
  - a. Urban
  - b. Suburban
  - c. Rural
15. The setting in which you primarily practice would be considered:
  - a. Solo practice
  - b. Walk-in clinic
  - c. Urgent Care or Emergency Department
  - d. Non-Academic Group or Team
  - e. Academic Group or Team
16. In the past 6 months, number of patients presenting to you with complaints of unilateral, acute or sudden-onset hearing loss, *not* as a result of cerumen impaction:
  - a. Fewer than 5
  - b. 5 – 10
  - c. 11 – 15
  - d. 16 – 20
  - e. More than 20
17. In the past 12 months, typical wait-time for your patients to be seen by an otolaryngologist, referred for unilateral, sudden-onset hearing loss:
  - a. 1 week or less
  - b. 1 – 4 weeks
  - c. 1 – 3 months
  - d. 3 – 6 months
  - e. Greater than 6 months
  - f. Greater than 12 months
18. The province/territory in which you primarily practice:
  - a. British Columbia
  - b. Alberta
  - c. Saskatchewan

- d. Manitoba
- e. Ontario
- f. Quebec
- g. New Brunswick
- h. Nova Scotia
- i. Prince Edward Island
- j. Newfoundland and Labrador
- k. Yukon
- l. Northwest Territories
- m. Nunavut