Hearing Function in Children with Chronic Renal Dysfunction

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Submitted to the

Discipline of Speech Pathology and Audiology

School of Human and Community Development

Faculty of Humanities

University of the Witwatersrand

in fulfilment of the requirements for the

Degree of Master of Audiology

July 2012
Declaration

I, Jennifer Lau, hereby declare that this submission is my own original work and that the assistance which I have received is detailed in the Acknowledgements of this report. To the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any other university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text. I am responsible for the study and conclusions reached.

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JENNIFER LAU

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Date
Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the following people:

❖ Professor Katijah Khoza-Shangase, my supervisor, for her encouragement, advice and assistance throughout the supervision of my research.

❖ The participants with chronic renal disorder and their caregivers, who so willingly gave of their time to expand my knowledge.

❖ The Chief Executive Officer, Medical Superintendent and Heads of Department for both the Renal Department and Speech and Hearing Department at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, for granting me the opportunity to conduct this research.

❖ Dr. Levy, for his time and knowledge that he shared with me regarding renal disorders as well as the advice that he gave me regarding the research. I would also like to thank all the other doctors, nurses and administrative staff from the Renal Department, who so willingly helped me during the data collection phase of the study.

❖ The Head of Department as well as my fellow friends and colleagues from the Speech and Hearing Department, for their continual support, friendship, encouragement and assistance during my academic endeavours.

❖ The Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, for their support and encouragement.

❖ Professor Peter Fridjhon, Dr. Michael Greyling, and Dr. Charles Chimedza, statisticians from the University of the Witwatersrand, for all their valuable time, knowledge and guidance regarding data analysis of the study. Their input and guidance is much appreciated.

❖ Mr. Herman Tesner, for his most timeous input, guidance and support with regards to the final check and editing of the research report.

❖ All hospital speech and hearing therapists and university staff who provided audiological input and emotional encouragement during this study.

❖ My family, for their unconditional love and support in the realization of my dreams, and standing by me through thick and thin.

❖ My friends, for their encouragement, interest and patience in the carrying out of my research study.

May God Bless You Always!
Abstract

The primary aim of the research was to describe hearing function in a group of children with chronic renal dysfunction receiving treatment in an academic hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa. Specific objectives in the study were to determine the prevalence of hearing loss in paediatric patients with chronic renal dysfunction; to describe the type, degree and configuration of the hearing loss; and to establish if there was a relationship between the presenting hearing loss and the severity of renal dysfunction, the different treatment regimens, duration of renal dysfunction, and the duration of treatment.

One hundred children between the ages five -18 years participated in the study and comprised 65 males and 35 females. The mean age of the participants was 11.68 years.

A cross-sectional, descriptive, quantitative research design was employed. All participants underwent a case history interview and a full audiological examination which included an otoscopic examination, immittance testing (tympanometry and ipsilateral acoustic reflex testing), pure tone audiometry including extended high frequency testing up to 16 kilohertz as well as diagnostic distortion product otoacoustic emission testing. A record review was also done.

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the collected data. Inferential statistics included parametric measures using multiple regression measures as well as non parametric measures using the Kruskal-Wallis statistical analysis.

Results revealed that there was a high prevalence of hearing loss in children with chronic renal dysfunction. Results from the extended high frequency pure tone testing as well as the diagnostic distortion product testing revealed that the most common hearing loss was a low and high to ultrahigh frequency mild sensorineural hearing loss. The study showed that there was no relationship between the severity of hearing loss and the severity of renal dysfunction, or the duration of renal dysfunction and the duration of treatment. However, the study showed that there was a relationship between the severity of hearing loss and certain treatments, that is,
haemodialysis and the use of ototoxic medication such as loop diuretics, tuberculosis medication, and antimalarial medication.

As the potential to miss hearing loss in this population is high, the research highlighted the importance of extended high frequency audiometry as well as diagnostic distortion product otoacoustic emission testing for the use of ototoxic monitoring in patients with chronic renal dysfunction. The research also highlighted the need for further research in this area as well as the need for educating medical personnel and caregivers working with children with chronic renal disease.

**Key words:** chronic renal dysfunction; hearing loss; distortion product; otoacoustic emissions; extended high frequency audiometry.
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