

Full Text Screening Form Help Sheet

1. Do any of the following apply to this paper? IF YOU CHECK ANY ANSWERS BELOW YOU ARE FINISHED THIS REVIEW.
 - a. It is not in English (stop)
 - b. It does not involve humans (stop)
 - c. Subjects are under 18 years of age (stop)
 - d. The tinnitus being studied is of a pulsatile nature. NOTE: Pulsatile Tinnitus may be referred to as PT, Objective, OT, or Functional. Pulsatile tinnitus can be heard by a doctor using a stethoscope (like a pulse), an audible sound emanates from the patient's ears. The sound HAS AN IDENTIFIABLE CAUSE (ACOUSTIC NEUROMA, for example). Our interest is in subjective (only the patient can hear it), idiopathic (of unknown origin/cause) tinnitus
 - e. Tinnitus is the side-effect of a drug (ototoxicity). NOTE: if the article is about a drug and mentions tinnitus as a symptom of taking the drug, we are not interested. IN GENERAL, IF A CHANGE IN MEDICATION WOULD LEAD TO TINNITUS DISAPPEARING, the study should be excluded here.
 - f. This is a Case report/study (N=1) Note: a case report is a descriptive study of a single individual in which the possibility of an association between an observed effect and a specific exposure is based on a detailed clinical evaluation and history of the individual.
 - g. This is a case series. [Specify number of subjects and stop] Note: A case series is a descriptive study that follows a group of patients who all have the same diagnosis or who are all undergoing the same procedure/treatment over a certain period of time. Case series do not employ control groups. Results of case series can generate hypotheses that are useful in designing further studies, including randomized controlled trials. However, no causal inferences should be made from case series regarding the efficacy of the investigated treatment.
2. Is this study only to determine the prevalence of tinnitus in a population group at any given time? NOTE: A prevalence study could be in a general or a specialized population. The study may look at how many people in Timbuktu have tinnitus or what percentage of the elderly people in Timbuktu over 60 has tinnitus. If this is only a prevalence study we are not interested. HOWEVER, if the study on the elderly with tinnitus in Timbuktu then went on to

do further evaluation/treatment research with that population, you would not exclude the study at this point.

3. Is this study only to determine various effects of tinnitus on an individual (e.g., effect on sleep or brain wave patterns; effect on memory)? Yes [STOP] NOTE: We are not interested in research on how people with tinnitus have memory problems or what the brain wave patterns of people with tinnitus are, or the fact that people with tinnitus can't sleep. If the study only looks at a way that tinnitus affects an individual but does not look at ways of determining their candidacy for treatment or is not an evaluation of a treatment outcome, it should be excluded.
4. Is this study only focused on ways of determining whether a patient has 'malingering' tinnitus? Fabricating or exaggerating the symptoms of tinnitus for a variety of "secondary gain" motives; for example to claim insurance benefits, avoid work, etc.
5. Does this report describe a primary study (i.e., the original publication of new data and results)
6. Does the study design compare:
 - a. More than one method of evaluation to determine candidacy for treatment i.e., the study compares two different scales/questionnaires (tinnitus handicap inventory vs. functional tinnitus index) used to assess severity of tinnitus in order to determine need for further treatment.
 - b. Group treatment outcomes (i.e., one group gets a treatment drug compared to one getting a placebo; one group gets treatment compared to another group getting no treatment; a group being treated compared to a group on a waiting list for treatment; one treatment compared to another treatment; a before/after treatment comparison; within-group comparison; between-group comparison).
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. There is no comparison of methods for evaluating tinnitus or tinnitus treatment outcomes in this study