

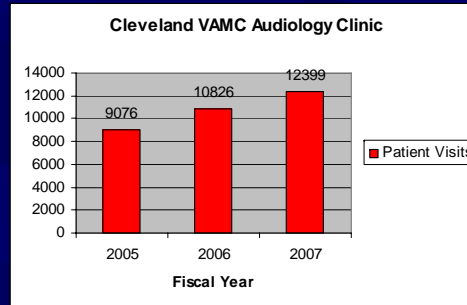
Use of the HHIE-S in the Prediction of Hearing Aid Fittings among Veterans

Purpose

- Investigate whether scores on the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly - Screening (HHIE - S) could predict if elderly veterans were fit with hearing aids
- Determine if this instrument could be utilized by Cleveland VAMC treatment sites as a screening tool for audiological assessment referrals

Cleveland VAMC

- All participating veterans are eligible for hearing aid services, regardless of enrollment category
- Receives service referrals from 13 treatment sites
- Currently, no screening system is used to determine patient need for audiological assessment



Methods

- Participants: 158 male veterans, 65-89 years of age, scheduled with the Audiology Service for assessment
- Administration and scoring of HHIE-S completed at the time of the assessment by the examining audiologist
- In addition to total score on the HHIE-S, self-perception of handicap as indicated by response to question #4 was also analyzed as a predictor of hearing aid fitting

Referral Sites



HHIE-S

- Among the few self-report assessments of hearing handicap designed for use exclusively with those aged 65 years and older
- As reliable and valid as its full length counterpart
- High test-retest reliability when administered using both paper-pencil and face-to-face methods

Results

- Data analyzed through logistic regression
- Findings:
 - Those veterans with a high score on the HHIE - S and with the presence of the self-perception of hearing handicap (response to question #4) were more likely to be fit with hearing aids
 - Referral site was not found to be a significant predictor
 - Age was found to be a significant covariate in both analyses, predicting that an elderly veteran is more likely to be fit with hearing aids by a factor of 1.14 with every year increase in age
 - Evidence suggests that the HHIE - S should be considered for use as a screening tool among treatment sites that refer to the Cleveland VAMC Audiology Service