

Perspectives of hearing care professionals about the management of balance problems and dizziness in adults: current clinical practice, experience, and attitudes.

(Phase 1: Survey)

Introduction

This survey addresses the current clinical practice, experience, and attitudes of hearing care professionals in the assessment and treatment of balance problems, and dizziness. The terms “balance problems/dizziness” are used throughout this survey because they are generic terms used by both professionals and individuals to refer to more specific elements such as vertigo, postural instability, disequilibrium, and falls. Please read each question and indicate your selection in the space provided. All surveys will remain confidential and will be identified only by number during data analysis. The survey will take 10-15 minutes.

Screening Question

Do you currently work in a clinical setting in which you provide audiological services to adults?

Yes – Need to answer “Yes” to access online information sheet and sign consent form electronically.

No-Go to “Thank you Page” and end participation

1. What is your age in years?

2. Gender:

Male

Female

Non-binary/ third gender

Prefer not to say

3. Country where you provide audiological services to adults:

4. What is the highest level of formal education you have achieved in audiology?

Diploma

Bachelor’s degree

Master’s degree

Doctor of audiology

PhD

No formal education in audiology

Other, please specify

5. What are your duties within your practice? (Check all that apply)

Basic audiological assessment (e.g., pure tone audiometry, speech audiometry and immittance audiometry)

Advanced diagnostics (e.g., evoked potentials)

Hearing aids

Implantable devices (e.g., cochlear implants)

Research/education

Rehabilitation

Balance/vestibular

Other, please specify

6. What type of practice do you work in? (Check all that apply)

Private clinic

ENT practice

University

Research institution

- Hospital setting
- Hearing aid dispensing centre
- School
- Other, please specify

7. How many years of clinical experience do you have?

8. Thinking about the patients you have seen in the past two weeks in your practice, what percentage of adult clients would you estimate complained of balance problems or dizziness?

9. Have you ever received training for the assessment of balance problems/dizziness?

- Yes
- No

10. Where did you receive your training? (Check all that apply)

- University course
- Clinical experience/ on the job training
- Continuing professional development course/ workshop
- Conferences
- Online course/webinar
- Other, please specify

11. Have you ever received training for the treatment of balance problems/dizziness?

- Yes
- No

12. Where did you receive your training? (Check all that apply)

- University course
- Clinical experience/on the job training
- Continuing professional development course/ workshop
- Conferences
- Online course/webinar
- Other, please specify

13. Does the practice where you work provide assessments or treatment for adult clients with balance problems/dizziness?

- Yes
- No

14. To whom do you refer clients that require assessments for balance problems/dizziness? (Check all that apply)

- Another audiologist
- Physical/ physio therapist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Other, please specify

15. To whom do you refer clients that require treatment for balance problems/dizziness? (Check all that apply)

- Another audiologist
- Physical/ physio therapist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Other, please specify

16. Do you provide assessments for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- Yes
- No

17. Do other professionals in your practice provide assessments for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- No
- Yes

17.a Who are the professionals in your practice that provide assessments for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- Another audiologist
- Physical/ physio therapist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Other, please specify

18. Why don't you provide assessments for adults with balance problems/dizziness? (Check all that apply)

- Lack of education
- Lack of training
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of funding or reimbursement
- Not within my specialized area in audiology
- Not within the scope of practice of audiology in my country /clinic
- I believe that other healthcare professionals are more qualified in this area
- Other, please specify

19. Do you provide treatment for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- Yes
- No

20. Why don't you provide treatment for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- Lack of education.
- Lack of training
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of funding or reimbursement
- Not within my specialized area in audiology
- Not within the scope of practice of audiology in my country/clinic
- I believe that other healthcare professionals are more qualified in this area
- Other, please specify

21. Do other professionals at your practice provide treatment for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- No
- Yes

21a. Who are professionals at your practice provide treatment for adults with balance problems/dizziness?

- Another audiologist
- Physical/ physio therapist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Other, please specify

22. When you are presented with adults complaining from balance problems or dizziness, what symptoms would you ask them about?

23. What type of equipment do you use at your workplace for the assessment and treatment of balance problems/dizziness?

24. What tests do you use in your assessment test battery for balance problems/dizziness?

25. What type of treatment for balance problems/dizziness do you provide?

26. In your opinion, who is qualified to provide assessments for balance problems/dizziness (check all that apply)?

- Audiologist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Physical/physio therapist
- General physician
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Neuro-otologist
- Other, please specify

27. In your opinion, who is qualified to provide treatment for balance problems/dizziness (check all that apply)?

- Audiologist
- Otolaryngologist (ENT)
- Physical/physio therapist
- General physician
- Neurologist
- Occupational therapist
- Neuro-otologist
- Other, please specify

28. What do you know about technologies used in both the assessment and treatment of balance problems and dizziness, such as virtual reality or devices using augmented sensory biofeedback (electrotactile, auditory, or vibrotactile neurofeedback)?

- I am not aware of such technologies

- I am aware of such technologies but do not use them
- Such technologies are used in the practice I work in, please specify
- I use such technologies for patients with balance problems/dizziness, please specify

29. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Somewhat agree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
a. I feel confident providing <u>assessments</u> for adult clients with balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. I feel confident providing <u>treatment</u> for adult clients with balance problems /dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. I feel confident using new technologies in the management of balance problems and dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I feel confident recommending new technologies for the management of balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. I believe it is the role of audiologists to provide <u>assessments</u> for balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I believe it is the role of audiologists to provide <u>treatment</u> for balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I have been adequately trained to provide <u>assessments</u> for balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. I have been adequately trained to provide <u>treatment</u> for balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. I know who to refer to for the <u>assessment</u> of balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. I know who to refer to for the <u>treatment</u> of balance problems/dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Interest in interviews and Future Research

In the next part of this project, we will be conducting some interviews (face-to-face or video-conference) to understand in more depth the facilitators and barriers faced by hearing care professionals with regards to the assessment and treatment of adults with balance problems/dizziness.

The long-term goal of this study is to improve the management of balance problems and dizziness in adults.

30. Are you interested in participating in the interview?

Yes, please provide your email

No- go to “Thank you page