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Critical Review: What are the effects of long-term sound therapy on the perception of tinnitus loudness?

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papers were also identified from references in the published literature using the process of snowballing.

Selection Criteria

Studies included in this review investigated the effect of long-term sound therapy on subjective ratings of tinnitus loudness. Studies employing a treatment protocol that included a counseling component beyond providing basic information about tinnitus were excluded from this review. The search was limited to articles published between 1995 and 2010.

Data Collection

The literature search identified four studies that met the above selection criteria: one single subject repeated-measures, two mixed measures nonrandomized clinical trials and one mixed measures randomized clinical trial demonstrating levels of evidence of one-plus for two articles (Goldstein et al., 2005; Okamoto et al., 2009) and two-plus for two articles (Folmer et al., 2006; Schaette et al., 2010) based on the level of evidence hierarchy as presented in Cox et al. (2005).

Results

Goldstein, Lenhardt and Shulman (2005) investigated the long-term efficacy of high-frequency bone-conducted (HFBC) music on levels of tinnitus

cochleas in primary auditory cortex. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, 338, 17-49.

Schaette, R., König, O., Hornig, D., Gross, M., & Kempter, R. (2010). Acoustic stimulation treatments against tinnitus could be most effective when tinnitus pitch is within the stimulated frequency range. *Hearing Research*, 269, 95-101.