

Abstract: Educational Intervention for Sudden Hearing Loss

Stephanie A. Byrd

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this written assignment.” S Byrd

Abstract

Background and Purpose: Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL) carries the risk of permanent profound hearing loss if not adequately identified and managed within 2-4 weeks of onset. Primary care providers are often the first providers to offer care, but the literature shows PCP's are not adhering to current guidelines. The purpose of this study is to determine whether an educational intervention for PCP's in a Southwest outpatient health organization increases knowledge about current guideline recommendations and increases the frequency of identification and appropriate management of SSNHL in adult patients.

Methods: This study utilized a single group pretest-posttest design with an educational intervention on sudden hearing loss (SHL) guidelines for PCP's at multiple sites within a single health system. Pretests and posttests were administered to determine change in knowledge following the intervention. A follow-up survey was administered at 12-weeks after the intervention to determine whether PCP's increased the frequency of identification and appropriate management of patients presenting with SHL.

Results: Posttest scores increased at baseline with no significant change at 12 weeks following the educational intervention. At 12-weeks, providers reported an increased likelihood of considering a diagnosis of SSNHL and for prescribing high-dose steroids for suspected SSNHL.

Conclusion: Findings suggest an intervention about SHL guidelines for PCP's may increase knowledge of and adherence to current recommendations which may have a clinically significant impact on reducing patient risk for permanent profound hearing loss.

Implications for Practice: Educating PCP's about SSNHL has the potential to improve patient outcomes.