

UBC School of Audiology and Speech Sciences
Blending real-life learning with sound science.

Barriers & Facilitators to Hearing Aid Uptake in Older Females: A Qualitative Report

Danielle A. Winsor

UBC Background

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    graph TD
      A[Help Seeking] --> B[Hearing Aid Uptake]
      B --> C[Hearing Aid Use]
      C --> D[Satisfaction]
  
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Knudsen et al. (2010)

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Why Don't People Get Hearing Aids?

- Quality of Life
- Stigma
- Degree of Hearing Loss
- Personality or Psychological Factors
- Cost
- Age
- Gender

Jenstad & Moon, 2011

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To use qualitative interviews to further investigate the facilitators and barriers to hearing aid uptake as reported by females with age-related hearing loss by using a combination of phenomenology and grounded theory qualitative methodologies

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Participants:

- 9 females
- 60 to 75 years of age
- Previously told they would benefit from amplification
- 5 had made decision to obtain hearing aids or were current hearing aid users
- 4 had decided not to obtain hearing aids or were undecided

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Materials & Procedures:

- Recruited through local hearing clinics, hard of hearing associations, public notice boards, & word of mouth
- 40 to 60 min. interview

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Results & Discussion

Decision Regarding Hearing Aid Uptake as Result of Complex Interaction Factors

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Results & Discussion

Influence of others

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    graph TD
      A[Influence of others] --> B[Family or Close Friends]
      A --> C[Audiologist or Healthcare Professional]
      A --> D[Others with Hearing Loss]
    
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Results & Discussion

Influence of others

Influence of Family & Close Friends:

- “My son has been bugging me for years, but he’s just really a sarcastic bug, so I sort of negated anything that he said.” - Judith
- “I thought, you know, I have maybe a responsibility for myself as well as the people that are around me not to be, you know, for them to constantly have to say, ‘I’m tired of saying it over and over again.’” - Carol

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Results & Discussion

Influence of others

Influence of Audiologist or Hearing Healthcare Professional:

- “When I first had my testing done at [the hospital], the audiologist there told me, she said, ‘well, you’re kind of borderline, you might benefit from it but,’ she said, ‘if you go to a place that dispenses hearing aids,’ she said, ‘they’re going to want to sell you a hearing aid, so bear that in mind.’ So I just, I didn’t do anything at that point.” - Patricia
- “For a real good professional, it’s somebody that yes, education is very important, but so are a lot of other things. In terms of behaviour and values and you know, commitment, compassion, understanding.” - Carol
- “I think it was mainly trust.” - Judith

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Results & Discussion

Influence of others

Influence of Others with Hearing Loss:

- “I have another friend that I play golf with and she doesn’t wear her aids and I realize now how tiring it is for someone. I would tell her something and then she was constantly saying, ‘what did you say? what did you say?’ It’s just really tiring.” - Carol

