

# Changing the treatment paradigm for patients with chronic otitis media related hearing loss

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### INTRODUCTION

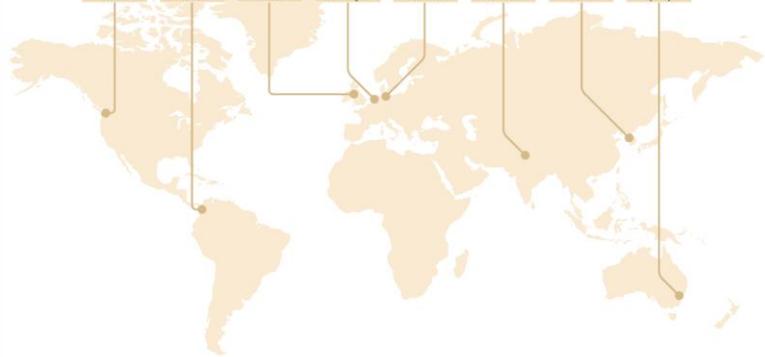
Chronic otitis media (COM) is a multi-factorial condition that presents two management challenges: eradication of infection/cholesteatoma and restoring hearing.

Comparing algorithms and surgical planning for optimizing hearing rehabilitation in patients with COM is complicated by a lack of clinical best-practice guidelines.

A lack of standardized evidence emphasizes the need for systematic data collection from directed research efforts intended to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

In 2019 an international steering committee of otolaryngologists was established under the Healthy Hearing Ears (HHE) Initiative to drive targeted COM research.

### Healthy Hearing Ears Steering Committee



### METHODS

The initiative is gathering clinical evidence to raise awareness of the current challenges, optimize treatment guidelines, and support access to effective treatments for COM-related hearing loss

#### Evidence Generation Strategy



### RESULTS

To date, the HHE evidence generation strategy has uncovered:

- 29% of patients undergoing ossiculoplasty have a post-operative air-bone gap greater than 20 dB and 13% experience complications<sup>2</sup>.

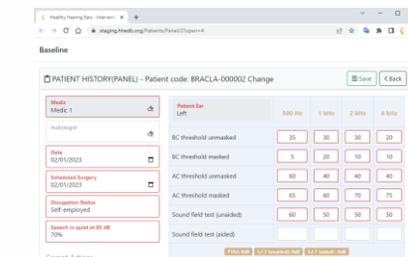
- There is no standardized pathway for planning hearing restoration after surgery for COM<sup>1</sup>.
- AAO-HNS reporting standards are underutilized, and few studies use standardized questionnaires<sup>1</sup>.
- Patients with COM utilize significant health resources, which does not diminish after middle ear surgery<sup>3</sup>.

### DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK

Continued collaborative efforts are required to facilitate the creation of standardized, evidence-based care pathways for patients with COM.

#### COM Research Platform

We are developing an online tool to support real-world data collection on patients with COM



To register interest in joining the COM platform and to keep up to date with the HHE Initiative, please visit our website:

[www.healthyhearingears.org](http://www.healthyhearingears.org)

**References:** 1. Backous D, et al. Hearing Rehabilitation of Patients with Chronic Otitis Media: A Discussion of Current State of Knowledge and Research Priorities. *J Int Adv Otol.* 2022 Jul;18(4):365-370. 2. Lewis A, et al. Success rates in restoring hearing loss in patients with chronic otitis media: A systematic review. *Laryngoscope Investig Otolaryngol.* 2021 May 12;6(3):522-530. 3. Lewis AT, et al. Healthcare consumption among subjects with otitis media undergoing middle ear surgery-analysis of cost drivers. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2023 Jan;280(1):175-181.