



Effective Health Care

Treatment Options for Age-Related Hearing Loss Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Treatment Options for Age-Related Hearing Loss*, is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time. The topic could potentially be considered for new research in comparative effectiveness.

Topic Description

Nominator(s): Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator states that he has developed a method for hearing rejuvenation. The nominator did not provide a description of this method, but asserts the method could replace existing options for managing hearing loss such as hearing aids.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Individuals with age-related hearing loss (presbycusis)

Intervention(s): Treatment and management options including, but not limited to: “hearing rejuvenation,” hearing aids, sound amplification devices, cochlear implants, and dietary changes

Comparator(s): Those listed above (i.e., compared to each other)

Outcome(s): Improved hearing, improved quality of life

Key Questions from Nominator: No questions provided. Based on the nomination the following key question was developed: What is the comparative effectiveness of treatment and management strategies for age-related hearing loss (presbycusis)?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Nearly half of individuals over the age of 75 will experience presbycusis or age related hearing loss. Age-related hearing loss may have a significant impact on an individual’s ability to communicate and overall quality of life. Failure to select an appropriate treatment/management strategy may make daily activities difficult.

- Treatment and management options such as hearing aids can be costly, and surgical procedures may be invasive for older adults.
- A search of the published literature and existing guidance found no evidence of the “hearing rejuvenation” method discussed by the nominator. A broad search of all treatment and management strategies for presbycusis found that the evidence base on available treatment options such as hearing aids, personal sound amplification devices, and cochlear implants is limited for individuals who have age-related hearing loss. Therefore, a systematic review is not feasible at this time. This topic could be considered for future comparative effectiveness research.