Quality of Life Before and After Hearing Aids
HS Chew,1 YM Heng,1 AC Leong1
1ENT, KTPH, Singapore

INTRODUCTION
• Hearing loss has significant impact on the quality of life of an untreated individual.
• Hearing aids may improve the quality of life for the hearing impaired.

OBJECTIVES
1. Determine the quality of life (QOL) before and after hearing aid intervention
2. Ascertain any significant factors that affect QOL after hearing aid intervention
3. Determine the compliance to hearing aid use and reasons for non-compliance.

MATERIALS & METHODS
• Subjects: Patient with untreated hearing loss, above 21 years of age
• Validated questionnaires used 3 mths pre- and post-HA fitting:
  1. HHIE (Hearing Handicap Inventory for Elderly)
  2. HHIA (Hearing handicap Inventory for Adult)
• Average hearing loss of the better hearing ear used for analysis
• Defaulters contacted via phone, reasons for dropout/non-compliance recorded.

RESULTS
• 63 patients (29 males, 32 females) recruited over 3 months.
• Significant improvement in QOL scores after hearing aid intervention

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION
• Hearing aid rehabilitation result in significant improvement in QOL and should be advocated in all patients presenting with hearing loss, regardless of severity
• Benefit derived from hearing aids is independent of the severity of hearing impairment.
• Unaided hearing disability more pronounced in groups with more severe hearing loss.
• Social factors and cultural perception may affect the improvement in QOL post hearing aids fitting and the compliance to hearing aids.