



Appendix

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Appendix to: Gunasekera H, Miller HM, Burgess L, et al. Agreement between diagnoses of otitis media by audiologists and otolaryngologists in Aboriginal Australian children. *Med J Aust* 2018; 209: 29-35. doi: 10.5694/mja18.00249.

Supplementary Material

Table 1. Conversion of original diagnoses to 3-category diagnoses

| Diagnosis at the ear-level | | Diagnosis at the child-level | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Diagnosis recorded on assessment form | Diagnosis for analysis | Diagnosis recorded on assessment form | Diagnosis for analysis |
| <p><i>One of the following:</i></p> <p>Acute OM with perforation (Otolaryngologist:0, Audiologist:6)</p> <p>Dry perforation (Otolaryngologist:9, Audiologist:10)</p> <p>Chronic suppurative OM (Otolaryngologist:3, Audiologist:7)</p> | <p><i>Re-categorised into:</i></p> <p>OM with perforation (Otolaryngologist:12, Audiologist:23)</p> | <p><i>One of the following in either ear:</i></p> <p>Acute OM with perforation</p> <p>Dry perforation</p> <p>Chronic suppurative OM</p> | <p><i>Re-categorised into:</i></p> <p>OM with perforation (in one or both ears)</p> <p>(Otolaryngologist:11, Audiologist:19)</p> |
| <p><i>One of the following:</i></p> <p>Acute OM without perforation (Otolaryngologist:21, Audiologist:125)</p> <p>Recurrent acute OM (Otolaryngologist:0, Audiologist:7)</p> <p>OM with effusion (Otolaryngologist:353, Audiologist:121)</p> <p>Chronic OM with effusion (Otolaryngologist:10, Audiologist:35)</p> | <p><i>Re-categorised into:</i></p> <p>OM without perforation (Otolaryngologist:384, Audiologist:371)</p> | <p><i>One of the following (in either ear):</i></p> <p>Acute OM without perforation</p> <p>Recurrent acute OM</p> <p>OM with effusion</p> <p>Chronic OM with effusion</p> <p>OM (undifferentiated)</p> | <p><i>Re-categorised into:</i> OM without perforation (in either ear)</p> <p>(Otolaryngologist:240, Audiologist:245)</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| OM (undifferentiated) (Otolaryngologist:0, Audiologist:83) | | <i>either ear:</i> Acute OM with perforation Dry perforation Chronic suppurative OM | |
| Normal (Otolaryngologist:1379, Aud:1381) | Normal ear (Otolaryngologist:1379, Aud:1381) | Normal for left and right ears | Normal in both ears (Otolaryngologist:600, Audiologist:599) |

Table 2. Comparison of children with audiology assessments who did and didn't receive an otolaryngologist review

| | Total n/N (%) | Otolaryngologist Review done n/N (%) | Otolaryngologist Review not done n/N (%) | p-value |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Diagnosis by audiologist (child-level) | | | | |
| OM with perforation in either ear | 25/1224 (2.0) | 25/1061 (2.4) | 0/163 (0) | 0.870 ¹ |
| OM without perforation in either ear | 380/1224 (31.0) | 324/1061 (30.5) | 56/163 (34.4) | |
| Normal in both ears | 819/1224 (66.9) | 712/1061 (67.1) | 107/163 (65.6) | |
| Diagnosis by audiologist (ear-level) | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 33/2477 (1.3) | 33/2149 (1.5) | 0/328 (0) | 0.358 ¹ |
| OM without perforation | 594/2477 (24.0) | 503/2149 (23.4) | 91/328 (27.7) | |
| Normal | 1850/2477 (74.7) | 1613/2149 (75.1) | 237/328 (72.3) | |

¹Wilcoxon rank sum test

Table 3. Agreement at ear-level across audiologist and otolaryngologist pairs

| Otolaryngologist 2 | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| OM with perforation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 (0.0%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 17 | 4 | 21 (24.4%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 1 | 64 | 65 (75.6%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 0 (0.0%) | 18 (20.9%) | 68 (79.1%) | 86 (100.0%) | 0.180 | 94.2% | 0.83 (0.69 to 0.98) | 0.96 (0.92 to 0.99) |
| Audiologist 3 & Otolaryngologist 3 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 (0.6%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 28 | 14 | 42 (26.1%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 3 | 115 | 118 (73.3%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 0 (0.0%) | 32 (19.9%) | 129 (80.1%) | 161 (100.0%) | 0.017 | 88.8% | 0.69 (0.54 to 0.85) | 0.92 (0.87 to 0.96) |
| Audiologist 4 & Otolaryngologist 1 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 (1.7%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 16 | 0 | 16 (13.9%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 1 | 96 | 97 (84.3%) | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total (%) | 1 (0.9%) | 18 (15.7%) | 96 (83.5%) | 115 (100.0%) | 0.368 | 98.3% | 0.94 (0.87 to 1.00) | 0.99 (0.97 to 1.00) |
| Audiologist 4 & Otolaryngologist 2 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 8 | 4 | 2 | 14 (2.4%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 124 | 32 | 156 (26.4%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 25 | 396 | 421 (71.2%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 8 (1.4%) | 153 (25.9%) | 430 (72.8%) | 591 (100.0%) | 0.033 | 89.3% | 0.75 (0.68 to 0.82) | 0.92 (0.89 to 0.94) |
| Audiologist 4 & Otolaryngologist 3 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 (1.1%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 39 | 6 | 45 (12.9%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 13 | 286 | 299 (85.9%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 2 (0.6%) | 54 (15.5%) | 292 (83.9%) | 348 (100.0%) | 0.101 | 94.0% | 0.78 (0.67 to 0.89) | 0.95 (0.93 to 0.98) |
| Audiologist 5 & Otolaryngologist 3 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 (0%) | | | | |
| OM without | 0 | 24 | 4 | 28 (19.4%) | | | | |

| perforation | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Normal | 0 | 8 | 108 | 116 (80.6%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 0 (0.0%) | 32 (22.2%) | 112 (77.8%) | 144 (100.0%) | 0.248 | 91.7% | 0.75 (0.58 to 0.91) | 0.94 (0.90 to 0.98) |

¹ OM with perforation in ≥ 1 ear: Acute OM with perforation, Dry perforation or Chronic suppurative OM in one or both ears ² OM without perforation in either ear:

Acute OM without perforation, Recurrent acute OM, OM with effusion, Chronic OM with effusion or OM (undifferentiated) ³ Normal in both ears ⁴ Stuart-Maxwell

test of marginal homogeneity ⁵ Linearly weighted kappa statistic with bootstrap methods used to estimate standard errors taking into account the ears within children and children within families ⁶ Prevalence-adjusted bias-adjusted kappa statistic

Table 4. Agreement at child-level across audiologist and otolaryngologist pairs

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| OM with perforation | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 (1.8%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 26 | 4 | 30 (18.2%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 5 | 127 | 132 (80.0%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 2 (1.2%) | 32 (19.4%) | 131 (79.4%) | 165 (100.0%) | 0.574 | 93.9% | 0.83 (0.72 to 0.93) | 0.95 (0.93 to 0.98) |
| Audiologist 5 & Otolaryngologist 3 | | | | | | | | |
| OM with perforation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 (0.0%) | | | | |
| OM without perforation | 0 | 13 | 4 | 17 (25.4%) | | | | |
| Normal | 0 | 3 | 47 | 50 (74.6%) | | | | |
| Total (%) | 0 (0.0%) | 16 (23.9%) | 51 (76.1%) | 67 (100.0%) | 0.705 | 89.6% | 0.72 (0.52 to 0.92) | 0.92 (0.87 to 0.98) |

¹ OM with perforation in ≥ 1 ear: Acute OM with perforation, Dry perforation or Chronic suppurative OM in one or both ears

⁴ Stuart-Maxwell test of marginal homogeneity ² OM without perforation in either ear: Acute OM without perforation, Recurrent acute OM, OM with effusion, Chronic OM with effusion or OM (undifferentiated) ³ Normal in both ears ⁵ Linearly weighted kappa statistic with bootstrap methods used to estimate standard errors taking into account the ears within children and children within families ⁶ Prevalence-adjusted bias-adjusted kappa statistic

Table 5: Otitis media diagnoses stratified by audiologists and otolaryngologists

| By ear | Left | | Right | | Total | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | Aud. | Oto. | Aud. | Oto. | Aud. | Oto. |
| | n (%) | n (%) |
| OM with perforation | 14 (1.6) | 6 (0.7) | 9 (1.0) | 6 (0.7) | 23 (1.3) | 12 (0.7) |
| OM without perforation | 180 (20.5) | 193 (21.9) | 191 (21.3) | 191 (21.3) | 371 (20.9) | 384 (21.6) |
| Normal | 686 (78.0) | 681 (77.4) | 695 (77.7) | 698 (78.0) | 1381 (77.8) | 1379 (77.7) |
| Total | 880 (100) | 880 (100) | 895 (100) | 895 (100) | 1775 (100) | 1775 (100) |
| By child ¹ | | | | | | Total |
| | | | | | | Aud. Oto. |
| | | | | | | n (%) n (%) |
| OM with perforation | | | | | | 19 (2.2%) 11 (1.3%) |
| OM without perforation | | | | | | 245 (28.4%) 240 (27.8%) |
| Normal in both ears | | | | | | 599 (69.4%) 612 (70.9%) |
| Total | | | | | | 863 (100%) 863 (100%) |

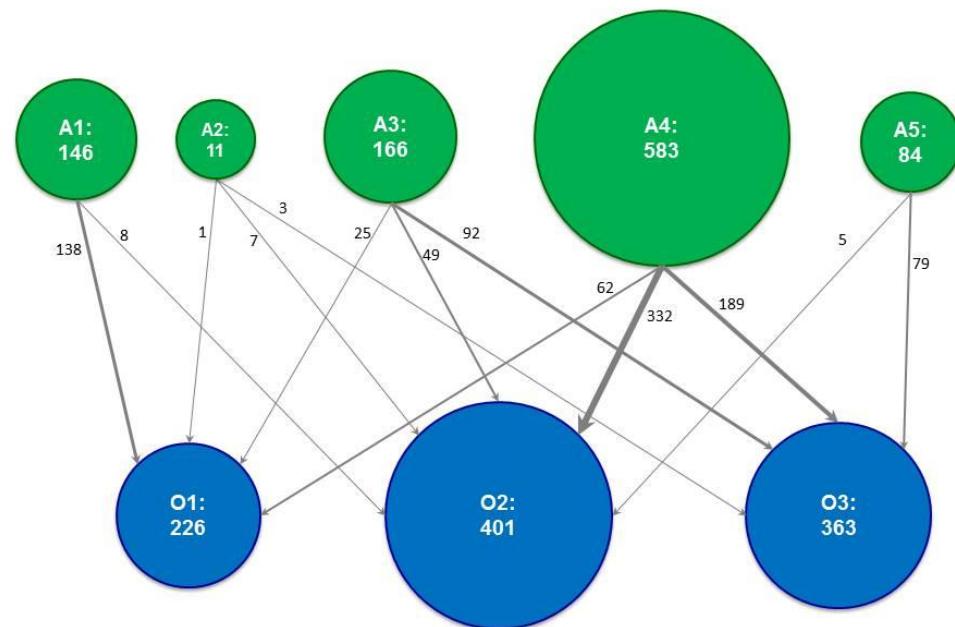
¹Diagnosis of highest order in any ear, so normal means both ears had no middle ear pathology. Aud; audiologist, Oto; otolaryngologist.

Table 6. Accuracy of diagnoses made by audiologists (using otolaryngologist as reference)

| All ears - abnormal ¹ vs. normal | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Otolaryngologist diagnosis | | | Prevalence ² % (95% CI) | Sensitivity ² % (95% CI) | Specificity ² % (95% CI) | PPV ² % (95% CI) | NPV ² % (95% CI) | LR+ % (95% CI) | LR- % (95% CI) |
| Audiologist diagnosis | Abnormal ¹ | Normal | Total | | | | | | | |
| Abnormal | 330 | 64 | 394 | 22.3 (19.8 to 24.9) | 83.3 (78.9 to 87.8) | 95.4 (94.1 to 96.6) | 83.8 (79.5 to 88.0) | 95.2 (93.8 to 96.6) | 18.0 (12.6 to 23.3) | 0.2 (0.1 to 0.2) |
| Normal | 66 | 1315 | 1381 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 396 | 1379 | 1775 | | | | | | | |
| Child - abnormal ¹ in either ear vs. normal in both ears | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Otolaryngologist diagnosis | | | Prevalence ² % (95% CI) | Sensitivity ² % (95% CI) | Specificity ² % (95% CI) | PPV ² % (95% CI) | NPV ² % (95% CI) | LR+ % (95% CI) | LR- % (95% CI) |
| Audiologist diagnosis | Abnormal | Normal | Total | | | | | | | |
| Abnormal | 225 | 39 | 264 | 29.1 (26.1 to 32.1) | 89.6 (85.8 to 93.5) | 93.6 (91.7 to 95.5) | 85.2 (80.9 to 89.5) | 95.7 (94.0 to 97.3) | 14.1 (9.5 to 18.6) | 0.1 (0.1 to 0.2) |
| Normal | 26 | 573 | 599 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 251 | 612 | 863 | | | | | | | |

¹Abnormal: Acute OM without perforation, Recurrent acute OM, OM with effusion, Chronic OM with effusion, OM (undifferentiated), Acute OM with perforation, Dry perforation, or Chronic suppurative OM. ²Bootstrap methods were used to estimate standard errors taking into account ears within children and children within families. PPV = positive predictive value, NPV = negative predictive value, LR+ = positive likelihood ratio, LR- = negative likelihood ratio.

Figure 1. The number of assessments/reviews conducted by each audiologist (A1 to A5) and each otolaryngologist (O1 to O3), and the numbers completed by each audiologist/otolaryngologist pair.



A1 completed 146 (15%), A2 completed 11 (1%), A3 completed 166 (17%), A4 completed 583 (59%), & A5 completed 84 (8%) of the assessments. O1 reviewed 226 (23%), O2 reviewed 401 (41%), & O3 reviewed 363 (37%) of audiology assessments. The size of the circles and lines reflect numbers of assessments, but are not to scale.