**Importance of Ototoxicity Monitoring of Hearing Loss in Chemotherapy Patients**

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Description automatically generated**Many medications have the possibility of having ototoxic side effects. These drugs include platinum-based drugs, aminioglycosides, loop diuretics, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS); with the most ototoxic being Cisplatin. Since platinum-based drugs are used in cancer treatment regimens, it is important to have ototoxicity monitoring in place.**

**Ototoxcity monitoring has three primary functions. The first reason to refer a patient for a full audiological evaluation is to detect hearing loss. This evaluation should be completed using high frequency audiometry. Cisplatin has been seen to cause decreased hearing following the first administration; therefore, a baseline hearing test should be completed *before treatment begins*. Hearing should be monitored prior to each treatment as well as a few months following chemotherapy since these medications can have a delayed or progressive effect. If head and neck radiation has occurred, a hearing test should also be completed 1-2 years following completion.**

**The second part of ototoxicity monitoring is to document hearing and note changes. This information could help the oncologist choose a less ototoxic option although it is acknowledged that effective disease treatment is most important in these patients.**

**Finally, the third reason to have ototoxicity monitoring is for rehabilitation. If a hearing loss is present, it is important for the patient to hear doctors and family during this difficult time. Audiological rehabilitation includes counseling, communication strategies, amplification, and/or assistive listening devices.**

*Do you have any patients who are taking ototoxic medications?*

*Consider sending them to us for ototoxic monitoring.*

American Academy of Audiology (Academy). (2009) Position Statement and Clinical Practice Guidelines: Ototoxicity Monitoring. <https://audiologyweb.s3.amazonaws.com/migrated/OtoMonGuidelines.pdf_539974c40999c1.58842217.pdf>

(accessed March 15, 2023).