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# OTOSCLEROSIS, AUDIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO COCHLEAR AND VESTIBULAR EVALUATION

## Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of Master Degree in  
**Audiology**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ  
أْمُنْ وَأَصْلِحْ وَسَلِّمْ وَنَسْلِمْ \*

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## CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE .....	1
- AIMS OF THE WORK .....	3
- REVIEW OF LITERATURE .....	4
Otosclerosis .....	4
Sensorineural Hearing Loss in Otosclerosis .....	18
Vestibular Disturbances in Otosclerosis .....	25
Treatment of Otosclerosis .....	29
Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) .....	33
ABR in Otosclerosis .....	45
Electronystagmography (ENG) .....	48
ENG in Otosclerosis .....	57
- MATERIALS AND METHODS .....	62
- RESULTS .....	71
- DISCUSSION .....	86
- CONCLUSIONS .....	92
- RECOMMENDATIONS .....	93
- SUMMARY .....	94
- REFERENCES .....	96
- ARABIC SUMMARY .....	

## LIST OF TABLES

No.		Page
1	Age distribution in the study and control groups .....	71
2	Hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo and family history in the study group ...	72
3	Prevalence of vestibular symptoms in the study group .....	73
4	Mean and Standard Deviation of air conduction thresholds .....	73
5	Mean and Standard Deviation of bone conduction thresholds .....	74
6	Mean and Standard Deviation of speech tests .....	75
7	Mean, Standard Deviation and T-test of the peak compensated static admittance .....	76
8	Mean and Standard Deviation of the audiometric air-bone gap .....	76
9	Distribution of otosclerotic ears according to the ABR .....	78
10	Distribution of the audiometrically conductive and mixed ears .....	79
11	Distribution of the audiometrically conductive and mixed ears in categories of ABR prediction .....	79
12	Comparison of bone conduction thresholds in ABR categories .....	81
13	No. and percentages of patients with ENG abnormalities .....	82

14	Comparison of air conduction thresholds in hypoexcitable ears and opposite ears .....	82
15	Comparison of bone conduction thresholds in hypoexcitable ears and opposite ears.....	83
16	Comparison of the audiometric air-bone gap in hypoexcitable ears and opposite ears .....	84
17	Comparison of the predicted air-bone gap in hypoexcitable ears and opposite ears .....	85

## LIST OF FIGURES

No.		Page
1	An otosclerotic ear with Carhart notch .....	11
2	An otosclerotic ear with sensorineural hearing loss .....	11
3	Normal ABR .....	35
4	Latency-intensity function of a case with conductive hearing loss .....	42
5	Latency-intensity function of a case with sensorineural hearing loss .....	43
6	Demonstration for the determination of LI function shift ..	46
7	Demonstration for the determination of LI function shift of an otosclerotic ear .....	65
8	Caloric test results summary .....	69
9	Audiogram showing the mean of air and bone thresholds in the study group .....	74
10	An example of the latency-intensity shift of an otosclerotic ear .....	77
11	Distribution of audiometrically conductive and mixed ears in categories of ABR prediction.....	80

# **INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE**

## INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Otosclerosis (synonym: otospongiosis) is a focal or diffuse spongifying disease of the bony labyrinth (**Donaldson and Snyder, 1993**). The otosclerotic focus may be asymptomatic, however, its usual presentation is conductive hearing loss if it is located in the area of the stapes footplate. When the disease process extends into other parts of the labyrinthine capsule, a sensorineural hearing loss develops, which may be accompanied by vestibular abnormalities (**Hannley, 1993**).

One of the major therapeutic problems encountered in the natural history of otosclerosis are lesions affecting Corti's organ (**Bonfils et al., 1989**). **Sliwiniska (1989)** reported that conventional bone conduction does not reflect the actual cochlear reserve. Since the description of surface recorded brainstem potentials by **Jewett and Williston** in 1971, the auditory brainstem response (ABR) has been used clinically in the identification and diagnosis of hearing loss.

All hearing impairments do not influence the ABR equally. Typically the latency-intensity functions are different for conductive and sensorineural losses. A conductive hearing loss routinely extends latencies approximately equally across intensity levels (**Finitzo and Friel, 1985**) while a sensorineural hearing loss may result in a variety of latency-intensity functions (**Keith and Greville, 1987**). **McGee and Clemis (1982)** proposed that the latency-intensity function's relationship to the air conduction audiogram is perhaps a more accurate estimate of the

conductive loss for pure ossicular chain disorders than is the audiometric air-bone gap.

Although less commonly encountered than hearing loss, vestibular symptoms were reported by many patients with otosclerosis (Hannley, 1993). Some investigators recommended electronystagmographic evaluation (ENG) of the vestibular function in otosclerotic patients specially in those with vestibular symptoms because of the differences in the therapeutic approaches (Virolainen, 1972; Cody and Baker, 1978; Emmett and Shea, 1989; and Donaldson and Snyder, 1993).

Accordingly, ABR and ENG testing combined with the basic conventional hearing assessment may prove to be helpful in establishing the diagnosis of cochlear and/or vestibular disorders in otosclerosis. Subsequently, better planning for the surgical, medical or rehabilitative management could be obtained in otosclerotic patients.

## **AIMS OF THE WORK**

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1. To study the latency-intensity function of wave V of the ABR as an index of cochlear affection and to compare the shift of that function with the audiometric air-bone gap in cases of otosclerosis.
2. To study the vestibular function in otosclerotic patients.
3. To study the relation between cochlear and vestibular compromise in those patients.

**REVIEW OF THE  
LITERATURE**

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### OTOSCLEROSIS

Otosclerosis is a bone disease unique to the otic capsule. One or more foci of histopathologically distinct abnormal bone in the labyrinth may be asymptomatic or may cause progressive conductive hearing loss, mixed hearing loss, or, occasionally, sensorineural hearing loss. Otosclerosis is an important cause of auditory and, to a lesser extent, vestibular symptoms, and both can be treated effectively in most cases (**Donaldson and Snyder, 1993**).

Fixation of the stapes as a cause of hearing loss was first recognized by **Joseph Toynbee** in 1860. In 1894, **Politzer** called the ankylosis "otosclerosis". In 1912, **Siebenmann's** microscopic examination showed that the lesion apparently began as a spongification of the bone, hence, the term otospongiosis, which is used in some parts of Europe. If the condition of bony changes and their secondary effects has clinical manifestations, the term used is "clinical otosclerosis", while if the bony changes are not translated into clinical manifestations, the term "histologic otosclerosis" is applicable (**Goycoolea, 1991**).

#### **Epidemiologic considerations :**

The prevalence and incidence of otosclerosis vary depending on whether clinical criteria or autopsy findings and other descriptive features are used to determine its presence (**Donaldson and Snyder, 1993**). Race also is a factor, Otosclerosis is more common in whites (5 cases per