

Summary :

In the present study, (26 patients) undergoing open heart surgery were subjected to audiological evaluation pre and postoperatively to study the effect of such operations on hearing and to explain the possible aetiology of occasional sudden hearing loss reported by others. Three groups were developed, those with no loss (10 patients), those with non significant changes (11 patients) and those with average hearing deficit of 10 dB (2 patients). In all cases the changes occurred bilaterally.

Embolism seems to be unlikely aetiology of such hearing loss as all patients in our series were young with no arteriosclerotic cerebrovascular disease and hearing loss occurred ~~bilaterally~~ bilaterally.

The perfusion failure theory seems to be a possible explanation of hearing loss as in all cases the affection was bilateral. However ototoxic drugs can not be excluded as a possible cause.