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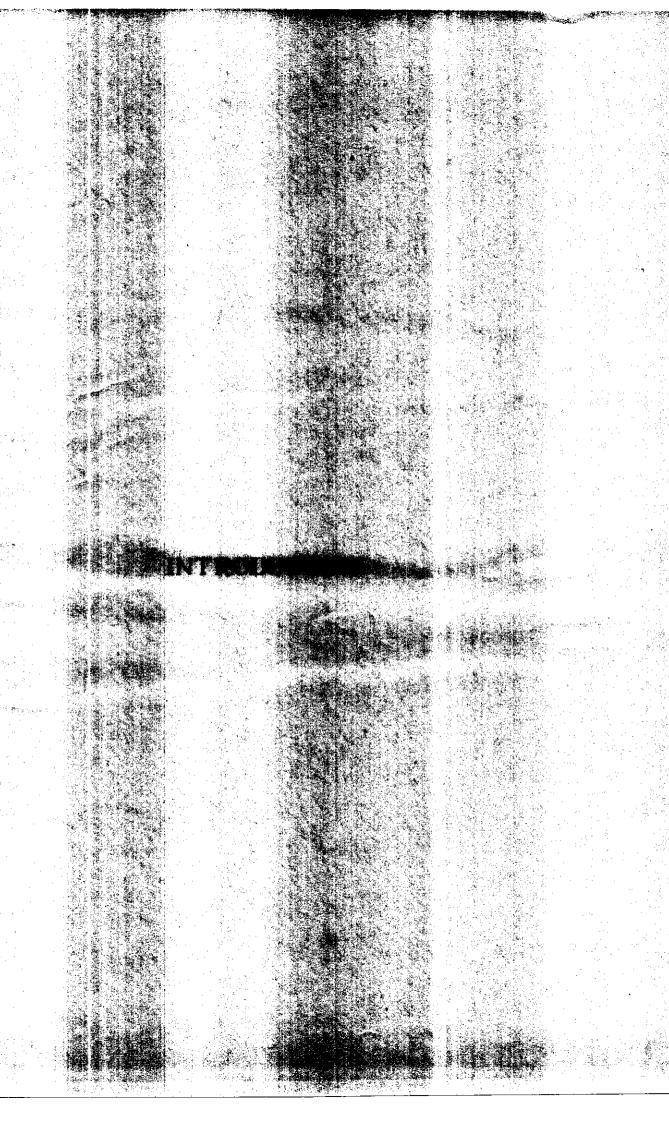
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## INTRODUCTION

Numerous etiologyies have been proposed for sudden loss of hearing. The most often cited are viral, viral vascular, vasospasm from autonomic imbalance, intracocheal membrane breaks and vascular. Vascular etiology could be on the basis of haemorrhage, vasospasm, thrombosis or embolism. (Mattox, D.E. and Simmons, F.B. 1977).

In many patients, however; we cannot specifically identify the etiology and speculation and debate continue upon a viral or vascular cause.

Very little mention is made concerning sudden hearing loss related to other forms of non otologic and neurologic surgery. The relationship of sudden hearing loss to anaesthesia or surgery is mentioned as an occasional and most likely of chance coincidence. (Paperella, M.M., 1973)

Unilateral hearing loss following general anaesthesia with nitrous oxide was first described in the literature, by Matz, G.J., Rattenborg, C.G. and Holday, D.A. (1967).

It is known complication after otological and cardio-pulmonary by pass surgery but very uncommon in general surgical procedures on patients with no prior history of otologic disease. (Hochetman, M. and Reimet, A., 1987)