

SUMMARY
AND
CONCLUSIONS

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Diabetes mellitus is a commonly occurring disease in which a general angiopathy is usually present . One would expect a functional degeneration of the hearing in diabetics as a result of vascular pathology (Axelsson , et al 1978) .

The present study includes 50 diabetic patients divided into 2 groups , one for juvenile- onset type (20 patients) and the other for the adult - onset type (30 patients) . A third group of 30 normal individual served as a control group .

The control group contains 26 normal audiograms and 4 sensorineural ones , but the diabetic group contains 15 normal audiograms and 35 sensorineural ones .

A comparison between the both groups reveals that there is a significant hearing loss in the diabetic group not explained by age or sex distribution as they are statistically equivalent .

Hearing impairment is mainly sensorineural , gradu-

ally in onset and is bilateral affecting more the older patients than younger ones , and the high frequencies 4000 and 8000 Hz are the most affected .

A form of sudden acute hearing loss is present in two cases only .

Males and females in the diabetic group are equally affected by the disease .

No correlation is found between the duration of the disease and the hearing loss .

Diabetics with complications are more affected than diabetics without complications , but this result needs further investigations as it is found that there is significant difference in the age of both these groups .

Impedence audiometry studying reveals that the reflex threshold is decreased indicating the presence of recruitment , also there is no reflex decay except in two cases only . These results suggest that the site of lesion is most propably cochlear , but it needs further investigations .