

# Hearing Health Matters!



Ontario Association of Professional Audiology Clinics  
Your Hearing Deserves An Audiologist

## Hearing Loss and Chemotherapy

As a physician, a number of your patients likely received platinum based chemotherapy agents like cisplatin and carboplatin to treat their cancer. Unfortunately, they probably gave little consideration to the side effects of chemotherapy. Permanent hearing loss is estimated to affect nearly two thirds of survivors. Initially only very high frequencies are lost, according to Adam Levy, MD, pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Then as chemotherapy is continued more damage occurs to the hair cells in the cochlea and lower frequency hearing is lost.

Monitoring hearing in patients receiving these chemotherapy agents is important. Depending on the patients and the treatment protocol prescribed, oncologists can sometimes adjust chemotherapy if hearing loss occurs, Levy explained. Audiologists recommend a baseline and periodic hearing assessment for patients receiving chemotherapy. If a hearing deficit is identified hearing should continue to be monitored, at least annually. An Audiologist can inform patients with chemo-induced hearing loss of options to help them hear better: from counselling on communication and lip-reading strategies, to obtaining FM systems and high-tech hearing aids with noise reduction processing and directional microphones.

Pharmaceutical companies are working on developing a drug that prevents cisplatin-induced ototoxicity. Sensorian has developed a drug called SENS-401 (R-azasetron besylate) that in preclinical studies prevented cisplatin induced hearing loss in rats by more than half. Other potential game changers are Fennec Pharmaceuticals' Pedmark (sodium thiosulfate) and Oricula Therapeutic's ORC-13661. In the interim, educating your patients undergoing chemotherapy on the importance of monitoring their hearing is paramount.

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### References

Oral Administration of Clinical Stage Drug Candidate SENS-401 Effectively Reduces Cisplatin-induced Hearing Loss in Rats. *Otol Neurotol.* 2017; 38 [9] 1355-1361.

Chemo-induced Hearing Loss: Help Patients Cope with The Aural Effects of Cancer Treatment. *The Hearing Journal.* Jan 2018; Vol 71, No. 1, 26-28.

**With so many places to refer your patients, it becomes difficult to choose what is best for your patient.**

- As independent practices we are not limited. We associate with 10 different hearing aid manufacturers.
- As audiologist owned-and-operated clinics, our services are fully regulated which means that your patients are fully protected.

Greater emphasis is being placed on hearing health.



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**The Ontario Association of Professional Audiology Clinics (OAPAC)** represents independent audiology practices in Ontario.

### Like Physicians, Audiologists of OAPAC

- ✓ Own and manage their practice
- ✓ No quotas, no franchises, no conflict of interest
- ✓ Assess and make appropriate recommendations
- ✓ Share the licensed Act to prescribe hearing aids
- ✓ Offer full scope of practice to all ages
- ✓ Are regulated...No misleading advertising, no testimonials

**To find an OAPAC Clinic near you, call  
1-844-41-2-HEAR (4327)**



Audiologists spend 7 to 9 years in University. The minimum requirement to practice in Ontario is a Masters Degree in Audiology or equivalent.

***Sudden hearing loss? Call us immediately!***

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