

SHORT REPORT ON CASES OF SEVERAL HEAD INJURIES

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During the period of past two years, two cases were seen in the Speech and Hearing Centre, Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, with the complaint of severe loss of hearing in both the ears.

Pure tone audiometry revealed total loss in both the ears, i.e., no response by air conduction or bone conduction. Speech audiometry revealed 80 dB loss in one ear and 90 dB loss in the other ear for the patient A (male, 24 years) and for the patient B (male, 31 years) it was 85 dB loss in both the ears. Speech discrimination score could not be obtained.

This led us to interpret that the patients might be malingerers. Functional tests revealed that there was no functional element in both the patients. On detailed questioning it was found that both the patients had multiple head injuries in the past. Patient A was a professional football player who received several head injuries in the past ten years. Patient B had met with two automobile accidents in the past, resulting in head injuries. The patients consulted several otologists but they could not be helped. Our findings were confirmed by neurophysicians later on. Both the patients are using hearing aids and their speech discrimination with a hearing aid is very good (82% for A and 86% for B).

The purpose of these case histories is to stress the idea that when SRT is better than PTT it is not always functional deafness. It could also be head injury.

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