

Tinnitus treatment with piribedil guided by electrocochleography and acoustic oto-emissions

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Tinnitus is still a great challenge to Otolaryngologists, due to the facts that its pathophysiology is still largely unknown and that there are no well established treatment methods.

Any new therapeutic perspective is a new hope for millions of tinnitus` sufferers around the world. One of the facts that lead to therapeutic failure is that there are no methods available to delineate different subtypes of tinnitus and to predict response to distinct pharmacological treatments. The presented study aims to investigate whether ECoCh and DPAOE may be helpful to predict treatment outcome for therapy with a dopamine agonist.

Piribedil is a dopamin agonist that acts at the lateral olivo-cochlear bundle: 100 patients with tinnitus of sensorineural origin will be included and divided in two groups, according to the results of the ECoCh and DPAOE: 50 patients with abnormal eletrocochleography (ECoCh) and normal DPAOE and 50 patients with normal ECoCh and abnormal DPAOE. Each group will be subdivided in two 25 patients subgroup, one of them taking piribedil 50 mg once a day and the other placebo, also once a day, for 3 months. After a 1 month wash out interval, groups will change as a double blind cross-over study. Tinnitus will be evaluated at the beginning of the study and monthly until 7 months with the Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI).

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