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“Are We Listening? Audiology Referral Patterns and Cisplatin-Induced Ototoxicity in Patients with Cervical, Vulvar and Vaginal Cancers: A Retrospective Cohort Study”

BACKGROUND: ¹Gynecologic malignancies, including cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers, remain a significant health burden, with worldwide cancer incidence projected to increase by 47% by 2040. Cisplatin-based chemotherapy is a fundamental component of treatment for these malignancies but is associated with irreversible ototoxicity that can substantially impair quality of life. ²A 2022 systematic review and meta-analysis of 87 studies, including 5,077 patients, reported an overall prevalence of ototoxic hearing loss of 43.2%, increasing to 49.2% among patients receiving cisplatin-based regimens. ³Although cisplatin-induced hearing loss has been well characterized in pediatric, head and neck, and other solid tumor populations, the incidence, risk factors, and audiology referral patterns among patients with gynecologic malignancies remain insufficiently examined.

OBJECTIVES: This study aims to determine the incidence of clinically subjective hearing loss following cisplatin chemotherapy and to evaluate demographic, clinical, and treatment-related predictors of ototoxicity, as well as audiology referral practices, in patients treated in a diverse metro area in the South.

METHODS: This retrospective cohort study included adult patients with histologically confirmed stage I-IV cervical, vaginal, or vulvar cancer who received first-line cisplatin-based chemotherapy between January 2016 and June 2026. Patients were identified through the Gynecologic Oncology Registry (IRB #1830) and supplemented by review of the electronic medical record (EMR). Demographic, clinical, treatment, audiologic, and audiology referral data were abstracted and collected in a Redcap database for analysis.

RESULTS: Data collection is ongoing. To date, 136 patient charts have been reviewed, with 93 meeting eligibility criteria and entered into the REDCap database.

CONCLUSION: Data collection is currently ongoing. Final analyses will evaluate the incidence of cisplatin-induced ototoxicity, audiology referral patterns, and potential clinical predictors to guide future hearing surveillance practices in gynecologic oncology.

