Effects of Glycemic Control on Hearing Outcomes in Diabetes Patients With Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss

Euyhyun Park, Jaehyun Shim, Soo Jeong Choi, Hak Hyun Jung, Gi Jung Im
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea

OBJECTIVE: This study aimed to analyze the effects of glycemic control on the hearing outcomes of type 2 diabetes patients with idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSHL).

METHODS: Type 2 diabetes patients with ISSHL were enrolled. All patients were admitted for 5 days and received systemic corticosteroid treatment. Patients were divided into groups according to their degree of glycemic control pre- (glycosylated hemoglobin) and post- (mean blood glucose) onset of ISSHL. Demographic, audiometric, and hearing outcome data were analyzed. Furthermore, a multivariate analysis was performed to determine the prognostic factors affecting the hearing outcomes in these patients.

RESULTS: One hundred forty-four patients were enrolled. The hearing recovery rates were as follows: complete recovery, 19%; partial recovery, 15%; slight improvement, 22%; and no improvement, 44%. Initial hearing levels and diabetes duration were significantly higher in the pre-onset poor-controlled group (glycosylated hemoglobin $\geq 7.0\%$) than those in the well-controlled group. The hearing recovery rates did not differ significantly pre- or post-onset. In a multivariate analysis, duration from hearing loss onset to treatment, presence of vertigo, and initial hearing level were negative prognostic factors that affected hearing recovery.

CONCLUSION: The degree of pre- or post-onset glycemic control did not affect hearing outcomes in patients with ISSHL and type 2 diabetes. Therefore, the administration of systemic corticosteroid is required for diabetes patients with ISSHL within allowable blood glucose levels.

KEYWORDS: Sudden sensorineural hearing loss, diabetes mellitus, glycemic control, hearing outcomes, prognostic factor

INTRODUCTION
Sudden sensorineural hearing loss is clinically characterized by the rapid onset of unilateral sensorineural hearing loss and is generally defined as hearing loss of 30 dB or more over at least 3 contiguous audiometric frequencies occurring within 72 h. Sudden sensorineural hearing loss may be caused by viral infections, vascular compromise, autoimmune processes, acoustic trauma, labyrinthine membrane ruptures, or cerebellopontine angle tumors. Even during the adequate evaluation, 85-90% of patients do not present a clearly identifiable cause and are thus diagnosed with idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSHL). The incidence of ISSHL is estimated to be 5-20 per 100 000 persons per year.

Type 2 diabetes (T2D), is the most common type of diabetes, accounting for 90-95% of all diabetic cases and has shown an increase in incidence rates during recent decades. Microangiopathy is a common complication of diabetes, and vascular compromise in the inner ear is considered to be one of the possible causes of ISSHL. Therefore, some studies reported a more severe hearing loss with poor hearing outcomes in patients with ISSHL and diabetes. However, other studies reported no significant difference in hearing outcomes between patients with diabetes and those without.

The standard treatment for ISSHL is the administration of systemic corticosteroids. However, systemic corticosteroid administration in patients with diabetes leads to steroid-induced hyperglycemia, which is known to cause various complications and has negative effects on hearing recovery. Therefore, treatment of ISSHL in patients with diabetes is a challenging task for otologists and endocrinologists. We hypothesized that glycemic control may affect hearing outcomes and that there are certain

Cite this article as: Park E, Shim J, Choi S, Jung H, Im G. Effects of glycemic control on hearing outcomes in diabetes patients with idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. J Int Adv Otol. 2021; 17(2): 109-114.
prognostic factors associated with diabetes. There have been few studies on the association between ISSHL and diabetes. Therefore, in this study, we analyzed the effects of glycemic control and prognostic factors affecting hearing outcomes in patients with ISSHL and T2D.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients
We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 929 patients with sudden sensorineural hearing loss who had been admitted to the tertiary-level referral hospital between January 2008 and January 2018. Demographic, audiometric, and hearing recovery data were extracted.

The inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) sudden unilateral sensorineural hearing loss of 30 dB or more over at least 3 contiguous audiometric frequencies occurring within 72 h; (2) normal physical examination; (3) follow-up in at least 4 weeks with hearing evaluation, and adequate data; and (4) age over 20 years. We excluded patients with Meniere’s disease, cerebellopontine angle tumors, acoustic trauma, perilymphatic fistula, and other neurologic disorders. Therefore, 739 patients were diagnosed with ISSHL. To standardize the results among the 739 patients, only patients with T2D who received systemic corticosteroid treatment were included. Thus, a final total of 144 patients were enrolled.

T2D was diagnosed by a physician and by an endocrinologist before and after admission, respectively. Data on duration from ISSHL onset to treatment, hearing level of the unaffected ear, presence of systemic disease (hypertension, chronic kidney disease), diabetes duration, glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c), fasting blood glucose (FBG), postprandial blood glucose (PBG), and mean blood glucose (MBG) were analyzed.

Grouping
The patients were grouped based on their HbA1c levels to determine the degree of glycemic control pre-onset of ISSHL. The HbA1c reference value was set to 7.0% as per the HbA1c target goal of the 2020 guideline from the American Diabetes Association. Patients with less than 7.0% HbA1c were grouped into the well-controlled group, whereas those with more than 7.0% were grouped into the poor-controlled group.

To determine the degree of glycemic control post-onset of ISSHL, patients were grouped based on their MBG concentration. The MBG reference value was set to 200 mg/dL, which in the literature generally indicates hyperglycemia. Patients with an MBG concentration lower than 200 mg/dL were grouped into the well-controlled group, and those with an MBG concentration higher than 200 mg/dL were grouped into the poor-controlled group.

Treatment
All patients were admitted for 5 days and received systemic corticosteroid treatment. Oral methylprednisolone was administered in doses of 64 mg/day for 5 days and tapered for another 7 days. After admission, all patients were consulted at the department of endocrinology for strict glycemic control. As per the instruction of the endocrinologist, the oral hypoglycemic agent was discontinued, and instead, insulin was administered through multiple injections daily. During hospitalization, all patients were educated on diabetes management to control blood glucose levels after discharge and instructed to perform self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) and to report the results to the physician. The MBG concentration was calculated by reflecting on the FBG and PBG results during hospitalization and the SMBG results of the patients after discharge.

Hearing Assessment
All patients underwent pure tone audiometry that averaged 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000, and 8000 Hz. The degree of hearing recovery at the 4-week follow-up was categorized according to Siegel’s criteria as follows: complete recovery (CR; final hearing better than 25 dB), partial recovery (PR; more than 15 dB hearing gain and final hearing between 25 and 45 dB), slight improvement (SI; more than 15 dB hearing gain with final hearing between 45 and 75 dB), and no improvement (NI; less than 15 dB hearing gain and final hearing less than 75 dB). In this study, hearing recovery rates were determined by the sum of CR and PR rates.

Statistical Analyses
After examining variance equivalence and normal distribution, a paired t-test was applied to assess the continuous variables, whereas a chi-squared test was used to assess the categorical variables. For the multivariate analysis, logistic regression analysis was performed. All statistical processing was performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences version 22.0 for Windows (International Business Machines, Armonk, NY). A P value < .05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Demographics and Hearing Outcomes
One hundred forty-four patients (81 male and 63 female) with a mean age of 60.8 ± 11.0 years were enrolled in this study. The initial mean hearing level of the affected ear was 80.8 ± 25.9 dB, and the final mean hearing level of the affected ear was 56.3 ± 29.7 dB. The mean hearing gain was 24.6 ± 21.2 dB. The hearing outcomes of the patients according to Siegel’s criteria were 27 (18.7%)
CR, 21 (14.6%) with PR, 32 (22.2%) with SI, and 64 (44.4%) with NI. The recovery rate (CR + PR) of the T2D patients with ISSHL was 33.3% (Table 1).

Hearing Outcomes According to the Pre-onset Glycemic Control State
Of the 144 patients, 72 were assigned in the well-controlled group (HbA1c < 7.0%), and 72 were assigned in the poor-controlled group (HbA1c ≥ 7.0%). In the degree comparison of pre-onset glycemic control, the initial hearing level of the affected ear (76.5 ± 26.5 dB vs. 85.1 ± 24.7 dB) and diabetes duration (6.6 ± 5.8 years vs. 11.1 ± 7.1 years) were significantly higher in the poor-controlled group than those in the well-controlled group. However, the hearing recovery rate (CR + PR) showed no statistical significance between the 2 groups (Table 2).

Hearing Outcomes According to the Post-onset Glycemic Control State
Of the 144 patients, 76 were assigned to the well-controlled group (MBG < 200 mg/dL), and 68 were assigned to the poor-controlled group (MBG ≥ 200 mg/dL). In the degree comparison of post-onset glycemic control, all variables except blood glucose levels were not significantly different for the 2 groups. The hearing recovery rate was not statistically significant (Table 3).

Prognostic Factors
In the multivariate analysis, the duration from ISSHL onset to treatment, the presence of vertigo, and the initial hearing level were all negative prognostic factors affecting the hearing recovery of T2D patients with ISSHL (Table 4). Age, sex, side of the affected ear, hearing level of unaffected ear, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, FBG, PBG, HbA1c, and diabetes duration were not significant.

DISCUSSION
Hyperglycemia caused by systemic corticosteroid administration in patients with diabetes is a challenging complication for physicians. To the best of our knowledge, the association between glycemic control and hearing recovery in diabetes patients with ISSHL has not been studied. This study is the first to demonstrate how the degree of glycemic control pre- and post-ISSHL onset may affect hearing

Table 1. Demographics and Hearing Outcomes of Type 2 Diabetes Patients With Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (n = 144)

| Parameters          | T2D (n = 144) |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Demographics        |               |
| Age (years)         | 60.8 ± 11.0   |
| Sex (male:female)   | 81:63         |
| Initial hearing level of affected ear (dB) | 80.8 ± 25.9 |
| Final hearing level of affected ear (dB)  | 56.3 ± 29.7   |
| Hearing gain of affected ear (dB)        | 24.6 ± 21.2   |
| Hearing outcomes    |               |
| Complete recovery (n) | 27 (18.7)   |
| Partial recovery (n) | 21 (14.6)    |
| Slight improvement (n) | 32 (22.2)   |
| No improvement (n)   | 64 (44.4)     |
| Recovery in this study (CR+PR) (n) | 48 (33.3)     |

Data are means ± S.D., or subject number (percent). Recovery means complete recovery + partial recovery according to Siegel's criteria. T2D, type 2 diabetes.

CR, 21 (14.6%) with PR, 32 (22.2%) with SI, and 64 (44.4%) with NI. The recovery rate (CR + PR) of the T2D patients with ISSHL was 33.3% (Table 1).

Table 2. Comparison of the Demographic and Audiologic Data According to the Pre-onset Glycemic Control State: Well-Controlled and Poor-Controlled Groups Among the Type 2 Diabetes Patients With Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss

| Parameter                        | Well-Controlled (HbA1C < 7.0 %) (n = 72) | Poor-Controlled (HbA1C ≥ 7.0 %) (n = 72) | P   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Age (years)                      | 61.6 ± 10.5                               | 60.0 ± 11.5                              | .374|
| Gender (male:female)             | 45:27                                      | 36:36                                    | .131|
| Affected ear (right:left)        | 34:38                                      | 36:36                                    | .739|
| Duration from onset to treatment (days) | 4.2 ± 4.0                           | 4.4 ± 4.6                                | .819|
| Initial hearing level of affected ear (dB) | 76.5 ± 26.5                              | 85.1 ± 24.7                              | .046*|
| Final hearing level of affected ear (dB)  | 53.7 ± 30.3                              | 59.0 ± 29.1                              | .274|
| Hearing gain of affected ear (dB) | 23.0 ± 23.2                                | 26.1 ± 19.0                              | .371|
| Hearing level of unaffected ear (dB) | 30.6 ± 25.6                              | 29.2 ± 18.8                              | .705|
| Vertigo (n)                      | 26 (36.1)                                 | 30 (41.7)                                | .494|
| Hypertension (n)                 | 49 (68.1)                                 | 40 (55.6)                                | .123|
| Chronic kidney disease (n)       | 8 (11.1)                                  | 8 (11.1)                                 | 1.000|
| Diabetes status                  |                                           |                                         |     |
| Diabetes duration (years)        | 6.6 ± 5.8                                  | 11.1 ± 7.1                               | <.001**|
| HbA1C (%)                        | 6.4 ± 0.4                                  | 8.6 ± 1.5                                | <.001**|
| FBG (mg/dL)                      | 172.0 ± 36.7                               | 173.2 ± 45.6                             | .864|
| PBG (mg/dL)                      | 228.9 ± 49.8                               | 214.7 ± 60.0                             | .123|
| Recovery (n)                     | 25 (34.7)                                  | 23 (31.9)                                | .724|

*P < .05; **P < .01.
Data are means ± S.D., or subject number (percent).
HbA1C, glycosylated hemoglobin; FBG, fasting blood glucose; PBG, postprandial blood glucose.
outcomes. Our results showed that the degree of glycemic control pre- or post-onset had no effect on hearing outcomes.

Corticosteroid administration in ISSHL is currently the most widely accepted and practiced treatment. Several studies have been conducted to determine which method of corticosteroid administration, systemic or intratympanic, is more effective. There are numerous studies showing that intratympanic injection has a similar effect to systemic administration. However, studies have reported that a combination of both systemic and intratympanic administration has a better effect than a single administration. Therefore, systemic corticosteroid administration will continue to play an important role in the treatment of ISSHL.

There have been several studies on the association between diabetes and ISSHL. Weng et al. reported that diabetes causes severe hearing loss in patients with ISSHL and a poorer prognosis compared to patients without diabetes. In the above study, PBG was reported to be associated with the hearing level of the unaffected ear; however, our study did not show any correlation between glycemic control pre- or post-onset with the hearing level of the unaffected ear. Wen et al. studied the prognostic factors in 576 patients with profound ISSHL and reported that systemic diseases such as diabetes were not associated with hearing recovery. However, there were limitations as only patients with profound hearing loss were enrolled and the treatment methods were not standardized. Fukui et al. reported in a study of 148 patients with ISSHL associated with T2D displayed a more severe hearing loss.

Various studies have reported on the relationship between diabetes duration and severity of ISSHL. Weng et al. reported that there was no correlation between the diabetes duration and the level of hearing loss, but Tay et al. reported the correlation between the diabetes duration and hearing loss. In this study, the poor-controlled group had a longer duration of diabetes (11.1 ± 7.1 years vs 6.6 ± 5.8 years, P < .001) and a severe hearing loss (85.1 ± 24.7 dB vs 76.5 ± 26.5 dB, P = .046) than the well-controlled group. The authors speculate that the risk of ischemic injury to the inner ear increases as the diabetes duration increases, and this may affect the severity of ISSHL.

Table 3. Comparison of the Demographic and Audiologic Data According to the Post-Onset Glycemic Control State: Well-Controlled and Poor-Controlled Groups Among the Type 2 Diabetes Patients With Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss

| Parameter                              | Well-Controlled (MBG < 200 mg/dL) (n = 76) | Poor-Controlled (MBG ≥ 200 mg/dL) (n = 68) | P    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------|
| Age (years)                            | 60.4 ± 10.4                                | 61.4 ± 11.8                               | .584 |
| Gender (male:female)                   | 43:33                                      | 38:30                                     | .933 |
| Affected ear (right:left)              | 35:41                                      | 35:33                                     | .516 |
| Duration from onset to treatment (days)| 4.3 ± 4.4                                  | 4.3 ± 4.3                                 | .947 |
| Initial hearing level of affected ear (dB)| 81.2 ± 26.0                          | 80.5 ± 25.9                               | .871 |
| Final hearing level of affected ear (dB)| 57.8 ± 27.7                          | 54.6 ± 31.9                               | .526 |
| Hearing gain of affected ear (dB)      | 23.4 ± 18.7                                | 25.6 ± 23.7                               | .494 |
| Hearing level of unaffected ear (dB)   | 28.1 ± 19.7                                | 31.9 ± 25.0                               | .317 |
| Vertigo (n)                            | 33 (43.4)                                  | 23 (33.8)                                 | .238 |
| Hypertension (n)                       | 46 (60.5)                                  | 43 (63.2)                                 | .738 |
| Chronic kidney disease (n)             | 7 (9.2)                                    | 9 (13.2)                                  | .443 |

Table 4. Prognostic Factors of Hearing Recovery in Type 2 Diabetes Patients With Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss: Results of Multivariate Analysis

| Parameter                              | B    | SE   | Exp (B) | P    |
|----------------------------------------|------|------|---------|------|
| Duration from onset to treatment       | −0.116 | 0.055 | 0.890 | .034 |
| Vertigo                                | −0.943 | 0.430 | 0.389 | .028 |
| Initial hearing level of affected ear (>70 dB) | −1.090 | 0.434 | 0.336 | .012 |

B, regression coefficient; SE, standard error.

Age, sex, side of the affected ear, hearing level of unaffected ear, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, FBG, PBG, HbA1c, underlying or new-onset, and diabetes duration were not significant.
It is well known that glycemic control acts as a prognostic factor for several diseases and surgical outcomes\textsuperscript{20-28} and that strict glycemic control in patients with diabetes is essential for treatment. However, it has been reported that in some diseases, glycemic control is not associated with prognosis. Loh et al. reported that the prognosis of malignant otitis externa was not associated with glycemic control,\textsuperscript{29} and Riga et al. reported that glycemic control was associated with the severity of Bell’s palsy, but not the prognosis.\textsuperscript{30} Similarly, in this study, patients with poor glycemic control pre-onset tended to have a more severe hearing loss; however, this was not related to prognosis.

Recently, intratympanic corticosteroid injection has been attracting attention as a treatment for ISSHL. As intratympanic corticosteroid injection does not induce hyperglycemia, it may be suitable for the treatment of ISSHL in patients with diabetes. In a prospective study of patients with ISSHL and diabetes, it was further found that treatment with intratympanic steroid injection alone showed a treatment effect comparable to systemic corticosteroid treatment.\textsuperscript{31} However, intratympanic corticosteroid injection has more several disadvantages compared to systemic administration. First is “delivery failure.” It has been reported that 5-29% of drugs injected into the intratympanic space are not delivered into the inner ear for several reasons, such as false round window membrane, dissipation through the Eustachian tube, poor penetration due to intrinsic reasons of the round window membrane, and air trapped in the round window niche.\textsuperscript{32,33} Second is an inevitable concentration gradient between the cochlear base and apex, limiting the pharmacological effect in the low-frequency range.\textsuperscript{34,35} Considering the above reasons, the authors suggest that systemic corticosteroid administration should be sustained, even in patients with diabetes, until the effectiveness of intratympanic corticosteroid injection is demonstrated in a large-scale randomized controlled study.

This study enrolled patients with ISSHL who had T2D; thus, there was a limitation of a relatively small study population. However, among previous studies of ISSHL and diabetes, this study has the largest number of patients. Additionally, HbA1c levels of all patients were assessed, blood glucose was recorded during treatment, and long-term results were confirmed (4 weeks later), which had the advantage of standardizing treatment methods within a single center.

**CONCLUSION**

The degree of pre-onset glycemic control seems to affect the severity of ISSHL. However, the degree of pre- and post-onset glycemic control did not affect hearing outcomes of T2D patients with ISSHL. Therefore, it is considered that the administration of systemic corticosteroid is required for diabetes patients with ISSHL within allowable blood glucose levels. Long duration from ISSHL onset to treatment, presence of vertigo, and an initial hearing level over 70 dB were negative prognostic factors affecting the hearing recovery of patients with ISSHL and T2D.

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Approval for the study was obtained from the Institutional Review Board of the Medical Center (2015AN0225).

**Informed Consent:** Written informed consent is obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for all study participants.

**Peer-review:** Externally peer-reviewed.

**Author Contributions:** Concept – E.P.; Design - E.P., G.J.I.; Supervision - G.J.I.; Resource - E.P.; Materials - E.P.; Data Collection and/or Processing - E.P.; Analysis and/or Interpretation - E.P.; Literature Search - E.P.; Writing - E.P.; Critical Reviews - E.P., J.S., S.J.C., H.H.J., G.J.I.

**Acknowledgments:** This work was supported by the National Research Grant funded by the Korea Medical Device Development Fund grant funded by the Korea government (the Ministry of Science and ICT, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, the Ministry of Health & Welfare, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety) (Project Number: 202013C09), Korea Government (Ministry of Science, ICT) (NRF-2019M3E5D1A0106899912), Korea Health Industry Development Institute (R1606512, R1621963, R1429733), Korea University Research Fund (K1912851, K1813271, K2005001, K2008511), and Korea University Anam Hospital (Q2000611). These funding sources provided only financial support and played no specific scientific role in this study.

**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

**Financial Disclosure:** This work was supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), a Grant funded by the Korea Government (Ministry of Science, ICT) (NRF-2019M3E5D1A0106899912), a grant from Korea University Anam Hospital, Seoul, Republic of Korea (Grant No.Q200611).

**REFERENCES**

1. Weng SF, Chen YS, Hsu CJ, Tseng FY. Clinical features of sudden sensorineural hearing loss in diabetic patients. Laryngoscope. 2005;115(9):1676-1680.
2. Hong YH, Mun SK. A case of sudden unilateral sensorineural hearing loss with contralateral psychogenic hearing loss induced by gunshot noise. Mil Med. 2011;176(10):1193-1195.
3. Lee JD, Lee BD, Hwang SC. Vestibular schwannoma in patients with sudden sensorineural hearing loss. Skull Base. 2011;21(2):75-78.
4. Stachler RJ, Chandrasekhar SS, Archer SM, et al. Clinical practice guideline: sudden hearing loss. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2012;146(3) (suppl):S1-S35.
5. Chung JH, Cho SH, Jeong JH, Park CW, Lee SH. Multivariate analysis of prognostic factors for idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss in children. Laryngoscope. 2015;125(9):2209-2215.
6. Rauch SD. Clinical practice. Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. N Engl J Med. 2008;359(8):833-840.
7. Geiss LS, Wang J, Cheng YJ, et al. Prevalence and incidence trends for diagnosed diabetes among adults aged 20 to 79 years, United States, 1980-2012. JAMA. 2014;312(12):1218-1226.
8. Sanon NT, Desgent S, Carmant L. Atypical febrile seizures, mesial temporallobe epilepsy, and dual pathology. Epilepsy Res Treat. 2012;2012:342928.
9. Schreiber BE, Agrup C, Haskard DO, Luxon LM. Sudden sensorineural hearing loss. Lancet. 2010;375(9721):1203-1211.
10. Orita S, Fukushima K, Orita Y, Nishizaki K. Sudden hearing impairment combined with diabetes mellitus or hyperlipidemia. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2007;264(4):359-362.
11. Hirano K, Ikeda K, Kawase T, et al. Prognosis of sudden deafness with special reference to risk factors of microvascular pathology. Auris Nasus Larynx. 1999;26(2):111-115.
12. Fukui M, Kitagawa Y, Nakamura N, et al. Idiopathic sudden hearing loss in patients with type 2 diabetes. Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2004;63(3):205-211.
13. Ceylan A, Celenk F, Kemaloğlu YK et al. Impact of prognostic factors on recovery from sudden hearing loss. J Laryngol Otol. 2007;121(11):1035-1040.
14. Wen YH, Chen PR, Wu HP. Prognostic factors of profound idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol. 2014;271(6):1423-1429.
15. Brownlee M. The pathobiology of diabetic complications: a unifying mechanism. *Diabetes*. 2005;54(6):1615-1625.

16. Ryu OH, Choi MG, Park CH et al. Hyperglycemia as a potential prognostic factor of idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2014;150(5):833-838.

17. American Diabetes Association. 6. Glycemic targets: standards of medical care in diabetes-2020. *Diabetes Care*. 2020;43(suppl 1):S66-S76.

18. Umpleby GE, Isaacs SD, Bazargan N et al. Hyperglycemia: an independent marker of in-hospital mortality in patients with undiagnosed diabetes. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2002;87(3):978-982.

19. Siegel LG. The treatment of idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. *Otolaryngol Clin North Am*. 1975;8(2):467-473.

20. Swachia K, Sharma D, Singh J. Efficacy of oral vs. intratympanic corticosteroids in sudden sensorineural hearing loss. *J Basic Clin Physiol Pharmacol*. 2016;27(4):371-377.

21. Wei BP, Stathopoulos D, O’Leary S. Steroids for idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2013;7(7):Cd003998.

22. Ahn JH, Yoo MH, Yoon TH, Chung JW. Can intratympanic dexamethasone added to systemic steroids improve hearing outcome in patients with sudden deafness? *Laryngoscope*. 2008;118(2):279-282.

23. Han X, Yin X, Du X, Sun C. Combined intratympanic and systemic use of steroids as a first-line treatment for sudden sensorineural hearing loss: a meta-analysis of randomized, controlled trials. *Otol Neurotol*. 2017;38(4):487-495.

24. Tay HL, Ray N, Ohri R, Frootko NJ. Diabetes mellitus and hearing loss. *Clin Otolaryngol Allied Sci*. 1995;20(2):130-134.

25. O’Keefe JH, Abuannadi M, Lavie CJ, Bell DS. Strategies for optimizing glycemic control and cardiovascular prognosis in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2011;86(2):128-138.

26. McAlister FA, Man J, Bistritz L, Amad H, Tandon P. Diabetes and coronary artery bypass surgery: an examination of perioperative glycemic control and outcomes. *Diabetes Care*. 2003;26(5):1518-1524.

27. Casella G, Abbatini F, Cali B et al. Ten-year duration of type 2 diabetes as prognostic factor for remission after sleeve gastrectomy. *Surg Obes Relat Dis*. 2011;7(6):697-702.

28. Loh S, Loh WS. Malignant otitis externa: an Asian perspective on treatment outcomes and prognostic factors. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2013;148(6):991-996.

29. Han CS, Park JR, Boo SH, et al. Clinical efficacy of initial intratympanic steroid treatment on sudden sensorineural hearing loss with diabetes. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2009;141(5):572-578.

30. Silverstein H, Rowan PT, Olds MJ, Rosenberg SI. Inner ear perfusion and the role of round window patency. *Am J Otol*. 1997;18(5):586-589.

31. Goycoolea MV, Lundman L. Round window membrane. Structure function and permeability: a review. *Microsc Res Tech*. 1997;36(3):201-211.

32. Hahn H, Salt AN, Bieger T, et al. Dexamethasone levels and base-to-apex concentration gradients in the scala tympani perilymph after intracochlear delivery in the guinea pig. *Otol Neurotol*. 2012;33(4):660-665.

33. Hahn H, Salt AN, Schumacher U, Plontke SK. Gentamicin concentration gradients in scala tympani perilymph following systemic applications. *Audiol Neurootol*. 2013;18(6):383-391.