# Initial findings from a clinic questionnaire

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## Background

- Music is an important part of people’s everyday lives (Greasley et al., 2013), including those with hearing impairments (Fulford et al., 2011)
- 10 million people in the UK have a hearing impairment (AoHL, 2011), but little is known about the music listening experiences of this population
- Hearing aids (HAs) are designed to amplify speech but the acoustic properties (e.g. frequency range, amplitudes, crest factors) of speech and music are very different (Chasin & Russo, 2004; Tozer & Crook, 2012)
- HAs help with music listening but are problematic for live performances. HA users can experience distortion and acoustic feedback, sudden dynamic variations and low fidelity (Madsen & Moore, 2014)

## Aims

- To explore the prevalence of music listening problems among HA users
- To identify the nature of discussions about music between audiologists and their patients in clinic

## Method

- **Four questions (rating scales) and open-ended responses (see below)**
  1. **Do you experience problems listening to music? n = 114, M = 4.00 (SD 1.93)**
  2. **Does this negatively affect your quality of life? n = 111, M = 3.50 (SD 2.04)**
  3. **Have you ever talked with your audiologist about music listening? (n = 113)**
  4. **If you have discussed music listening with your audiologist, to what extent has this improved your experience of music? n = 49, M = 2.00 (SD 1.79)**

## Results

1. **Do you experience problems listening to music? n = 114, M = 4.00 (SD 1.93)**
   - Lack of definition / clarity / fidelity
   - Difficulties hearing words in songs
   - Problems hearing quiet passages
   - Distortion
   - Problems in live contexts

2. **Does this negatively affect your quality of life? n = 111, M = 3.50 (SD 2.04)**
   - Mixed responses
   - Loss of music as part of life or hobby
   - Social exclusion and isolation

3. **Have you ever talked with your audiologist about music listening? (n = 113)**
   - Positive reports about experience in audiology clinic
   - Only 36% had spoken with their audiologist about music listening
   - Speech issues prioritised

4. **If you have discussed music listening with your audiologist, to what extent has this improved your experience of music? n = 49, M = 2.00 (SD 1.79)**
   - Increased tailoring is more effective
   - Differences emerging between STH and HSH clinics

## Summary and future directions

- Music listening with HAs is ‘moderately’ problematic (Q1)
- There is larger variance in quality of life ratings (Q2)
- Most HA users had never talked with their audiologist about music (Q3)
- For those who had, outcome ratings for music were low (Q4)
- Interview study to explore patterns of music listening experiences within a representative sample of hearing aid users in the UK population
- Need for an outcome measure to assess sound quality ratings for music using HAs

## References