

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

To News Editor
For Immediate Release

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CUHK Research Reveals Impact of Mild Hearing Loss on School Children Now Recruiting Hearing Impaired Students for Research on Efficacy of Intervention

A recent research of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) revealed that children with mild bilateral hearing loss (defined as having hearing threshold in between 26-40 dB HL), if not diagnosed and intervened early, would miss up to 50% of speech sounds which may result in significant communication and learning difficulties, lack of energy and shorter attention span. Affected children may also have behavioural problems and poor self-esteem. These children are often misunderstood as not paying attention in class as they cannot hear instructions clearly. The impact of mild hearing loss on children should not be overlooked and appropriate intervention would help to alleviate the adverse impact.

The research assessed 35 children aged 6-8, of whom 83% (29) suffered significant language impairment or speech delay; about half of the children (17) said that they had difficulties in listening during classes and one-third of them had difficulties in learning and coping with school environment. None of them found it easy to listen in class. Over 85% of the teachers (30) observed the listening problem of these students, and that the problem affected their academic performance, communication and attention span, while the impact on their class participation and behaviour in school is relatively smaller. Most parents of the affected children thought their kids could hear almost all the words with occasional misunderstanding; over 40% of the parents observed that their kids had to pay extra effort to listen and understand.

Preliminary findings of the research supported that children with mild bilateral hearing loss could benefit from appropriate intervention at schools. As remarked by the teachers, the students' academic performance, concentration and communication were improved after four months of intervention. However, some parents are reluctant to let their children receive intervention. Prof. Anna Kam, Assistant Professor of Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at CUHK, and the principle investigator of the project, said, "Parents will let their children wear eye glasses to rectify vision problems, but they are not willing to let the children use assistive listening devices or receive intervention for hearing problems which will hinder their learning and development. We hope to educate the public to eliminate discrimination against the hearing impaired."

Funded by the Health and Medical Research Fund of the HKSAR Food and Health Bureau, the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at CUHK will launch a research to further investigate the efficacy of intervention for children with mild bilateral hearing loss. With the support of the Student Health Service, Department of Health, the research will target children diagnosed with hearing impairment in audiological assessment. CUHK is now recruiting K3 and P1 students with mild hearing loss to participate in the research. Free audiological and speech assessment as well as intervention will be provided. Interested parties are welcome to contact the research team by phone at 2632-3087, by fax at 3942-0969 or by email at admin@ent.cuhk.edu.hk.

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致新聞編輯
請即發放

中大研究揭示輕度聽障對兒童學習及言語的影響 現招募聽障學童參與研究計劃以探討復康介入成效

香港中文大學（中大）耳鼻咽喉－頭頸外科學系的最新研究發現，患有雙耳輕度聽力障礙（醫學上的定義為聽閾在 26 至 40 分貝(dB HL)之間）的兒童，可能未能聆聽近 50% 的言語聲音，因而影響學習。受影響兒童如未能及早接受診斷和治療，會有顯著的溝通及學習障礙、缺乏活力及專注力，以及出現行為及自我形象的問題。由於這些兒童在課堂上未能清晰聆聽學習內容及指示，往往被誤會為「發白日夢」。輕度聽障對學童的影響不容忽視，透過適當的介入措施和跟進，可緩減聽障對兒童的影響。

參與這次調查的 35 名患有雙耳輕度聽障的兒童，年齡介乎 6 至 8 歲，83% (29 名) 有顯著言語障礙或遲緩；約一半兒童 (17 名) 表示自己在課堂上有聆聽困難，三分一則表示在學校環境及學習上遇到困難；表示能在課堂上輕鬆聆聽的為零。超過 85% (30 名) 老師留意到這些兒童遇到聆聽上的困難，並觀察到他們的學業、溝通及專注力最受影響，而對其課堂活動及校內行為的影響則較為輕微。大部分受訪兒童的家長認為子女能聽到所有說話，僅有時誤解說話的內容；超過 40% 家長觀察到子女要花額外的氣力去聆聽與理解。

中大研究的初步結果顯示，患有雙耳輕度聽障的兒童，可接受復康介入，以緩解聽障對其學習的影響。有老師指出，兒童接受治療四個月後，在學業、專注力及溝通方面皆有進展。然而，研究人員遇到不少家長拒絕讓子女接受復康安排。中大耳鼻咽喉－頭頸外科學系助理教授及研究項目的負責人甘志珊教授說：「當家長發現子女出現視力問題時，會毫不猶豫讓孩子配戴適合的眼鏡；但若子女被診斷有聽力問題時，家長卻拒絕讓子女使用聽力輔助器材或接受復康安排，導致孩子未能獲得更佳的學習經歷。我們希望透過公眾教育，消除他們對聽障的誤解。」

中大耳鼻咽喉－頭頸外科學系獲香港特別行政區政府食物及衛生局屬下的醫療衛生研究基金撥款，將展開探討雙耳輕度聽障兒童接受復康介入的成效之研究。此計劃亦獲衛生署學生健康服務的支持，研究對象為在聽力檢查中診斷出有聽障的兒童。中大現正招募幼稚園高班至小學一年級有聽力障礙的兒童參與是項研究，並為他們提供免費聽力、言語評估及復康安排。有興趣人士歡迎聯絡研究隊伍，電話：2632-3087；或將聯絡資料傳真至 3942-0969 或電郵至 admin@ent.cuhk.edu.hk。

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