

## **“EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDY OF HYPOACUSIA IN ADULT AND ELDERLY PATIENTS”**

**Maria Giugliano** - D.Testa, M.Collaro, G.Castaldo, I.Diomaiuto, G.Motta

Hypoacusia is a pathology with a remarkable health and social relevance, the percentage of individuals with auditory impairment affecting social relationships is bound to rise during next years for various factors, such as the progressive population ageing, the raising of environmental acoustic pollution, employment of ototoxic drugs. In order to evaluate the incidence of different causes of hypoacusia in adult population in metropolitan area of Naples, we have observed 4175 patients (1850 male and 2325 female), aged between 22 and 80 (medial age 54.7 years), observed in the Otorhinolaryngology Institute of Second University in Naples, between 1995 and 2005.

Pathologies evaluated for our research were:

- chronic otitis media ;
- otosclerosis;
- endolymphatic hydrops ;
- toxic labyrinthosis (from internal and external toxicants);
- noise hypoacusia;
- presbyacusia.

Preliminary results evidence interesting trends in the incidence of different causes of hypoacusia; we have observed a significant increase of presbyacusia, a manifest drop of noise hypoacusia, a modest decrease of chronic otitis media, whereas no statistically significant variation of the incidence of otosclerotic, hydropic and toxic pathologies has been noticed. The importance of epidemiologic data finds its actual application in prevention and therapeutic strategies of hypocusia in adult age.