

Appendix D: Qualitative evidence tables

Study	Ming 2018 ⁶
Aim	Evaluate a tinnitus brochure to establish its readability and suitability for providing information to adults who experience tinnitus
Population	Adults experiencing tinnitus who could read and converse in English n=7; Male: 43%, Female: 57%; Mean age: 67.7 years
Setting	Christchurch, New Zealand (Further details not reported)
Study design	Qualitative interview study (mixed methods study; quantitative element: questionnaire completed by 2 audiologists about suitability)
Methods and analysis	<p>Group semi-structured interviews - purposive and convenience sampling was used. Four participants met in one interview group, and three participants met in a second interview group. Participants were mailed a packet containing: (1) an information sheet, (2) a consent form, (3) a demographic sheet, (4) the Tinnitus Reaction Questionnaire, and (5) the original tinnitus brochure. Participants were asked to complete the questionnaires and read the brochure before attending the group interview session. Hearing tests were conducted before the interview session for those who were unable to provide a recent hearing test. Participants were offered a \$10 voucher for their time and participation in the study.</p> <p>Thematic content analysis - the first author organised the data into content units, which identified points of interest. The first author used an inductive approach to compare content units to each other to identify similarities and recurring themes. The first author refined the content units within each theme to generate sub-themes. Both authors discussed the thematic analysis, along with the resulting changes made to the brochure</p>
Findings	a) Information about what causes changes in tinnitus needed: Participants wanted information about how to prevent tinnitus in the information brochure
Limitations and applicability of evidence	<p>The methods used by the researcher to analyse the data were clearly described and deemed appropriate. However, there is limited information for aspects of data collection:</p> <p>(1) What was the nature of the relationship between the interviewer (first author) and interviewees (people with tinnitus)? - No information is provided about the nature of the relationship. The relationship between the interviewer and interviewee can influence the questions asked and responses given by interviewees</p> <p>This study was not directly applicable for this review question as the aim of the study was to investigate the format of the information that should be provided to people with tinnitus. The aim of this evidence review was to identify what information should be provided to</p>

Study	Ming 2018⁶
	people with tinnitus. Consequently, the relevant finding extracted from the study was not adequately supported with rich data, presenting concerns with adequacy. However, this study also presented some useful findings and insight into aspects of the information provision.

Study	Pyrce 2018⁹
Aim	Overall: To develop a decision aid for tinnitus care that would meet international consensus for decision aid quality Qualitative aspect of mixed methods study: Elicit patient preferences for tinnitus care and the key information that patients required to make decisions about clinical care.
Population	Individuals who had sought help for tinnitus n=41; Male: 59%, Female: 41%; Age: Over 50 years (80%) ; Hearing loss: 58.5%; Clinicians participants received care from: Otolaryngologists: 46%, Audio-Vestibular Physicians: 24%, Audiologists: 36%, Hearing Therapists: 54%, General Practitioners: 100%
Setting	United Kingdom (Further details not reported)
Study design	Qualitative interview study
Methods and analysis	Interviews (in-depth) – conducted in the participants’ homes or clinic locations. Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed Grounded theory analysis - constant comparison of accounts to develop themes that are modelled into an overarching theory about how a phenomenon (in this case how preference for coping with tinnitus) occur and are mediated.
Findings	a) Information should be provided about management options for tinnitus. Participants wanted information about the impact of management options for tinnitus and how to access management options. Study explored the use of “talking therapies, using sound and group support” as management options.
Limitations and applicability of evidence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The methods used by the researcher to analyse the data was clearly described and deemed appropriate. However, there is limited information for aspects of sampling methods, data collection and reporting of findings: What sampling method was used? There is no information about how participants were selected or recruited. Study authors reported that they “sought and included participants in their 20’s and 30’s” to ensure contrast to the majority of the sample (80% were aged over 50 years) 2. What was the nature of the relationship between the interviewers and interviewees? - No information is provided about the nature of the relationship. The relationship between the interviewer and interviewee can influence the questions asked and responses given by interviewees 3. What quotes informed study themes? – there is limited data quoted within the study, difficult to infer if themes generated were

Study	Pyrce 2018⁹
	accurate and fully applicable for this evidence review.
	This study was directly applicable for this review question as part of the aim of the study was to investigate information that people with tinnitus deemed as important for decision-making. The aim of this evidence review was to identify what information should be provided to people with tinnitus. This study provided useful findings to inform themes generated for this evidence review, particularly around the role of management strategies for people with tinnitus.

Study	Thompson 2011¹³
Aim	To investigate in detail the experience of participating in a tinnitus therapy group and of adjusting to tinnitus
Population	<p>People with tinnitus who attended tinnitus groups led by audiologists and clinical psychologists or individual tinnitus therapy. Participants attended five 2-hour sessions held on a weekly basis. Topics covered included anatomy and physiology of the ear, mechanisms of tinnitus, sound enrichment, relaxation, cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness, sleep hygiene and biofeedback. Participants who did not attend the group received individual tinnitus therapy with the same content but without the additional group support.</p> <p>n=8; Male: 50%, Female: 50%; Mean age: 59.5 years; Location of tinnitus: Bilateral: 63%, Unilateral: 37%; Duration of tinnitus (years): range – 1-20 years</p>
Setting	South Wales, UK (Further details not reported)
Study design	Qualitative interview study
Methods and analysis	<p>Interviews (specific interview style not reported) with purposefully selected sample. The participants were contacted by an audiologist to arrange a mutually convenient time to hold an interview regarding their tinnitus experience. Particular areas of interest were perceptions of tinnitus and the development of self-management strategies which illustrated coping behaviours. The interviews were led by a topic schedule and were audio-recorded and transcribed.</p> <p>Grounded theory analysis - the interviews were transcribed and then coded using a grounded theory approach. The data in this study took the form of individual interviews which were transcribed and then coded openly. Starting with the first interview, a number of categories were created as particular themes or important points were recognised. Data analysis took place at the same time as the data gathering in order to purposefully select participants and gather the richest and most relevant data possible. Data gathering continued until a point of 'saturation', i.e. until no new dimensions to categories appear.</p>
Findings	a) Information should be provided to improve understanding of tinnitus. Participants sought information to develop the identity of their tinnitus and searched for answers

Study	Thompson 2011 ¹³
	<p>b) Information about what causes changes in tinnitus needed. Participant wanted to know what factors influenced their tinnitus (e.g. what could improve their tinnitus), including eating habits and working habits. Relevant quote: “How does it fluctuate, the noise in my ear?...we look eating habits, drinking habits, working habits, but it’s the same all the time...”</p> <p>c) Information should be provided about management options for tinnitus. Participants wanted information about the impact of management options for tinnitus and how to access management options. Relevant quotes: “...I made an appointment to go and see (a private ENT consultant), I was just thinking, there must be something they can do...”; “...there is a box they can fit you with...to make it go away”</p> <p>d) Information should be tailored to the person’s needs (e.g. visual with verbal explanations). Participant received a diagram of the ear with a verbal explanation, helped understanding of tinnitus and provided reassurance. Relevant quote: “She gave me a good diagram of the ear and explained exactly what happened to me...because she helped me understand it, it probably reduced the annoyance”.</p>
<p>Limitations and applicability of evidence</p>	<p>The methods used by the researches to analysis the data was clearly described and deemed appropriate. However, there is limited information for aspects of data collection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Which interview style was used? – It is not reported if the interview was semi-structured or structured (2) What was the nature of the relationship between the interviewer (audiologist) and interviewees (people with tinnitus)? - No information is provided about the nature of the relationship. The relationship between the interviewer and interviewee can influence the questions asked and responses given by interviewees (3) What was the content of the topic schedule? – Limited information about the type of questions included in the topic schedule that was used by the interviewers and whether the topic schedule changed as themes emerged <p>This study was not directly applicable for this review question as the aim of the study was to investigate experiences of tinnitus related to tinnitus therapy interventions. The aim of this evidence review was to identify what information should be provided to people with tinnitus. Consequently, some findings extracted from the study were not adequately supported with rich data, presenting concerns with adequacy. However, this study presented some useful findings and insight into aspects of the information provision.</p>