

University of South Florida and Indiana University researchers find hearing loss after cisplatin-based chemotherapy in testicular cancer survivors

TAMPA, FL – Many testicular cancer survivors experience hearing loss after cisplatin-base

The researchers, Biomedical Engineering Professor [Ravi S. Prasad](#), M.D., Sc.D., the Lawrence D. Einhorn Professor of Cancer Research at the IU School of Medicine and a researcher at the [Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center](#), studied for the first time the cumulative

The [research](#) was published June 27 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

“In addition to hearing loss, about 40 percent of patients also experienced tinnitus (ringing-in-the-ears), which was significantly correlated with reduced hearing,” Dr. Travis, also director of the cancer center’s Survivorship Research Program, said.

Although this study was conducted in patients with testicular cancer, the authors point out that the general conclusions are likely applicable to patients with other types of adult-onset cancers that are commonly treated with cisplatin. They indicate that it will be important to follow patients given cisplatin-based chemotherapy long-term to better understand the extent to which the natural aging process may further add to hearing deficits, as it does in the general population.

“The results show the importance of comprehensive hearing assessments, preferably, both before and after treatments,” Dr. Travis said. “Our findings suggest that health care providers should, at a minimum, annually query patients who have received cisplatin-based chemotherapy about their hearing status, consulting with audiologists as indicated. Patients should also be urged to avoid noise exposure, drugs having adverse effects on hearing, and other factors that may further damage hearing.”

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and director of the Global Center for Hearing and Speech Research at the University of South Florida. He designed the auditory portion of the study.

Platinum-based cisplatin is one of the most commonly used drugs in medical oncology that also has toxic effects on the inner ear.