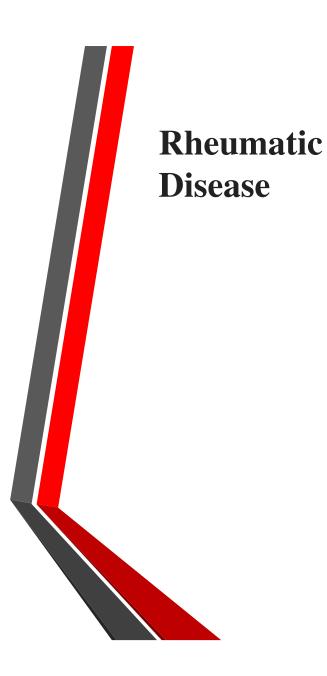
# Audiological and Cognitive-Linguistic Manifestations in Rheumatic Disease

Susan Dillmuth-Miller Au.D., CCC-A Associate Professor, Clinical Audiologist CSD LuAnn Batson-Magnuson Ph.D., CCC-SLP Associate Professor, Graduate Program Coordinator CSD East Stroudsburg University

### Disclosures

- This research has been funded by Faculty Development and Research Grants sponsored by the Office of the Provost at East Stroudsburg University.
- Drs. Magnuson and Miller are employed by East Stroudsburg University (ESU) in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Drs. Magnuson and Miller have received compensation for a portion of their time spent on the project through the FDR Grant.
- Dr. Magnuson is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and has relatives with varied rheumatic diseases.



"Any of several diseases characterized by inflammation and pain in muscles or joints."

#### Extensive List of Rheumatic Diseases

- \* Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS)
- Arthritis
- \* Avascular Necrosis (Osteonecrosis) \ Back Pain
- \* Behçet's Disease
- \* Bursitis And Other Soft Tissue Diseases
- \* Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- \* Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- \* Collagen Vascular Disease
- \* CPDD (Calcium Pyrophosphate Dihydrate Crystal Deposition Disease )
- \* Crohn's Disease
- \* Degenerative Joint Disease
- \* Dermatomyositis
- \* DISH (Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hypertosis)
- \* Dupuytren
- \* EDS (Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome)
- \* EMS (Eosinophilia-Myalgia Syndrome)
- \* Felty's Syndrome
- \* Fibromyalgia
- \* Fibromyositis
- \* Gout
- \* Infectious arthritis
- \* Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- \* JH (Joint Hypermobility)
- \* Joint Inflammation
- \* Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritiis
- \* Juvenile Arthritis Other Types & Related Conditions
- \* Juvenile Dermatomyositis
- \* Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)
- \* Juvenile Non-Inflammatory Disorders
- \* Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis
- \* Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA)
- \* Juvenile Scleroderma
- \* Juvenile Spondyloarthropathy Syndromes
- \* Juvenile Systemic Lupus Erythematosis (SLE)
- \* Juvenile Vasculitis

- Ledderhose Disease (Dupuytren of the feet)
- \* Lupus, Discoid
- \* Lupus Erythematosis
- \* Lyme Disease
- \* Marfan Syndrome
- \* MCTD (Mixed Connective Tissue Disease)
- \* Myofascial Pain
- \* Osteoarthritis
- \* Osteogenesis Imperfecta
- \* Osteonecrosis (Avascular Necrosis)
- \* Osteoporosis
- \* Paget's Disease
- \* Peyronie's Disease
- \* PMR (polymyalgia rheumatica)
- \* Polyarteritis Nodossa and Wegener's Granulomatosis
- \* Polyarthritis
- \* Polymyositis
- \* Pseudogout
- \* Pseudoxanthoma Elasticum (PXE)
- \* Psoriatic Arthritis
- \* Raynaud's
- \* Reiter's (Reactive Arthritis)
- \* Rheumatoid Arthritis
- \* RLD (Restless Leg Syndrome)
- \* RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)
- \* Sarcoidosis
- \* Scleroderma
- \* Sjögren's Syndrome
- \* Soft Tissue Disease
- \* Spinal Stenosis
- \* Still's Disease
- \* Temporal Arteritis
- \* TMJ (Tempero-Mandibular Joint) problems
- \* Undifferentiated Spondylarthropathy
- \* Wegener's Granulomatosis
- \* Vasculitis

# • Affect joints, tendons, ligaments, bones, and muscles

Inflammation

# Recognized Shared Characteristics of Rheumatic Diseases

- Patients experience:
  - Pain
  - Fatigue
- At increased risk of:
  - cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease

# **Evidence of an Inflammatory Process in the Brain**

- Inflammation within the brain
  - Serum
  - EEG
  - MRI
  - PET
- Immune factors
- Premature cardiovascular disease- accelerated artherosclerosis

#### **Evidence of Inflammatory Process: Serum**

- High levels of antiphospholipid antibodies<sup>(SLE)</sup>
  - persistently positive levels assoc. with cognitive decline
- Higher concentration of S100B protein (RA, SLE)
  - a marker of glial cell damage (RA)
- High levels of CSF chemokine CX3CL1 (also known as fractalkine)
- **Release of inflammatory mediators -** cytokines, chemokines and prostaglandins<sup>(SLE, RA)</sup>
- Mixed results of elevation of IL-8 in blood serum but consistently high CSF IL-8 levels (Fibro)
- Elevated levels of CCL-19 secreted protein involved in inflammatory process– (Lyme) post-treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome less research available

### **Evidence of Inflammatory Process: EEG Evidence**

- prolongation of P300 latency (SLE)
  - indication possible demyelination
- reduction of P300 amplitude (SLE)
  - a neuro-physiological analogue for cognitive dysfunction

# **Imaging Evidence of Inflammatory Process: MRI**

#### Hypoperfusion

- frontal lobe (SLE, RA) (scleroderma)
- parietal lobe and temporal lobes (RA)
- Activation of glial cells (SLE, RA)
- White matter lesions (SLE)
- Ventricular dilation (SLE)
- Cortical atrophy (SLE)
- Myelinopathy (SLE)
- Decreases in thalami, the thalamocortical tracts, and both insular regions (Fibro)
- Decreases in gray matter volume in the postcentral gyri, amygdalae, hippocampi, superior frontal gyri, and anterior cingulate gyri (Fibro)

### **Imaging Evidence of Inflammatory Process**

#### **PET Scan Evidence**

- Bilateral parieto-occipital white matter hypometabolism (SLE)
- Problems with glucose metabolism <sup>(SLE)</sup>
  - (Found also in patients exhibiting pre-AD and TBI)

#### **SPECT Scan Evidence**

- Abnormalities in perfusion to various areas of the brain (SLE)
  - most notably the frontal, temporal, and parietal lobes

# **Types of Cognitive-Linguistic Deficits:**

#### Deficits in memory:

- STM Recall of digits, words, sentences
- Working and episodic memory
- Sustained Attention Weaknesses
- Verbal Fluency deficits (phonemic and semantic)
- Slower cognitive response times, slower processing
- Executive Functioning Deficits
- Deficits in verbal reasoning and comprehension
- Mathematical processing

# **Impact of Language and Cognitive Deficits**

- Cognitive deficits result in early retirement
- Reduced QOL

The majority of patients do not receive therapy for these deficits!

# **Rheumatoid Arthritis**



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Current Study RA Group: Subject Description

- Total number of research subjects = 21
- 17 females and 4 males with a mean age of 51.9 years
- Education- some college or completed college

#### Word-finding (TAWF)

- **53%** of subjects with RA fell **below age-expected** performance levels
- Performance on word finding task was not related to level of disease activity, pain, sleepiness or emotional state at time of testing

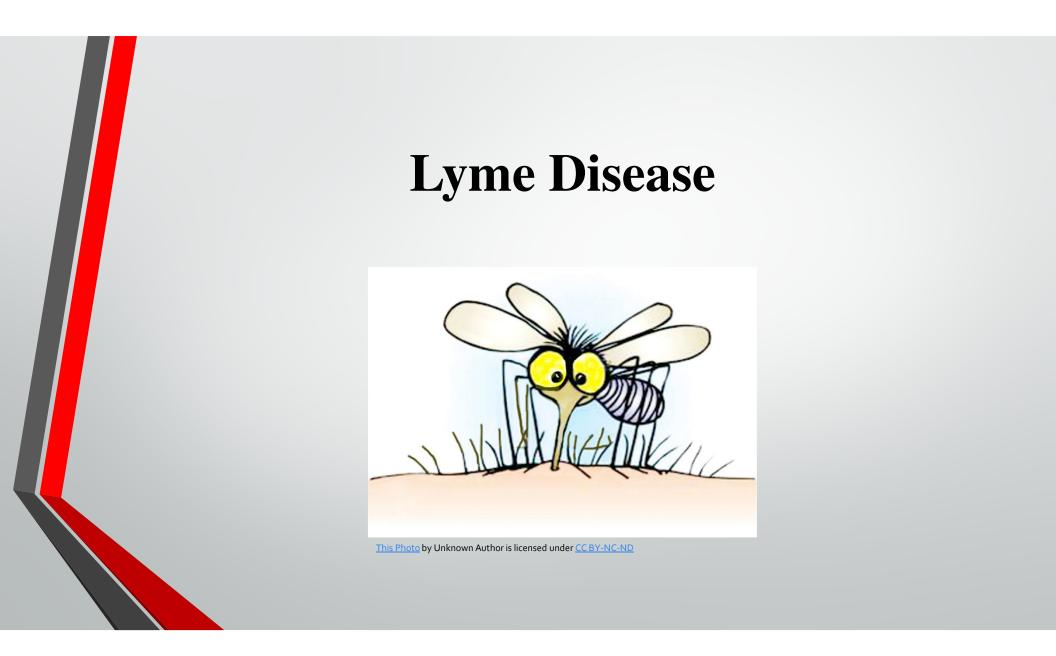
#### **Executive Functioning (FAVRE)**

- 27% of subject with RA fell below age-expected performance levels for accuracy of responses
- 67% of subject with RA fell below age-expected performance levels for providing rationale
- 7% of subject with RA fell **below age-expected** performance levels for the time of task completion
- A relationship was not found between verbal reasoning and executive functioning (accuracy, timing, or rationale) and emotional state, pain level, sleepiness, or disease activity at the time of testing

#### Memory (RBMT 3)

• 40% of subjects fell at or below 25% tile age-expected performance levels

Current Study RA Group: Conclusion



Current Study Lyme Group: Subject Description

- Total number of research subjects = 6
- 6 females and 0 males with a mean age of 37.1 years
- Education- some college or completed college

#### Word-finding (TAWF-2)

- 33% fell below age-expected performance levels
- not related to level of disease activity, pain, sleepiness or emotional state at time of testing

Current Study Lyme Group: Conclusion

#### **Executive Functioning (FAVRE)**

- 33% fell below age-expected performance levels for accuracy
- 50% fell below age-expected performance for rationale
- 0% fell **below age-expected** performance levels for time

#### Memory (RBMT 3)

- 50% subjects scored below age-expected levels
- No correlation between pain, sleepiness, emotional state or disease activity
- RBMT-3 subtest performance: Delayed tasks were more difficult

# **Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**



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Current Study SLE Group: Subject Description

- Total number of research subjects = 5
- 5 females and 0 males with a mean age of 36.6 years
- Education- some college or completed college

#### Word-finding (TAWF-2)

- 40% fell below age-expected performance levels
- Performance not related to level of disease activity, pain, sleepiness or emotional state at time of testing

Current Study SLE Group: Conclusion

#### **Executive Functioning (FAVRE)**

- 60% fell below age-expected performance levels for accuracy of responses
- 40% fell below age-expected performance for rationale
- 40% fell below age-expected performance levels for time

#### Memory (RBMT-3)

- 40% subjects scored below age-expected levels
- No correlation between pain, sleepiness, emotional state or disease activity
- RBMT-3 subtest performance: Delayed tasks were more difficult

Current Study: Cognitive-Linguistic Conclusions  Clients with RA, Lyme disease and SLE present with deficits in memory, executive functioning and word finding to varying degrees and with varying patterns.

• RA and Lyme Disease: No significant interactions were noted between pain, sleepiness, and disease activity on any of the cognitive test outcomes

# Application for Audiologists

- Is the client's performance impacted by inaccurate responses? (STM memory/working memory?)
- Is the client's performance impacted by the rate of presentation? (word finding/word fluency or slowed processing?)
- Is it appropriate to pause and provide wait time for a response?

# Application for Audiologists

Consider the impact word-finding deficits and slowed processing particularly delayed response times on APD testing

Consider the impact of short term memory deficits on APD testing

### **Refer to a speech-language pathologist:**

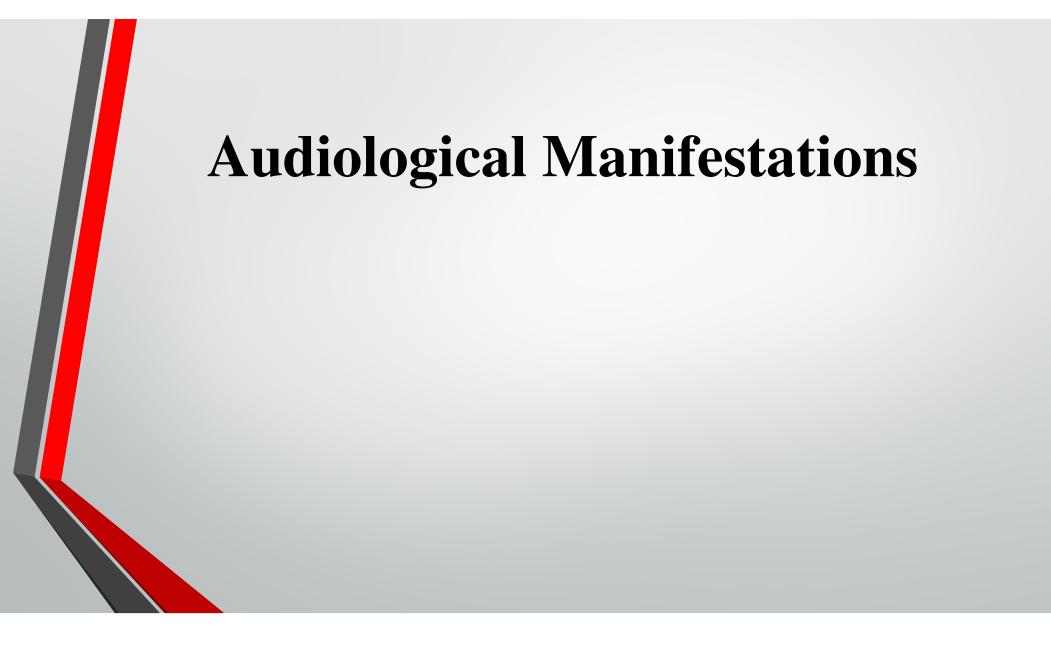
Assessment of linguistic memory and word-finding prior to APD testing

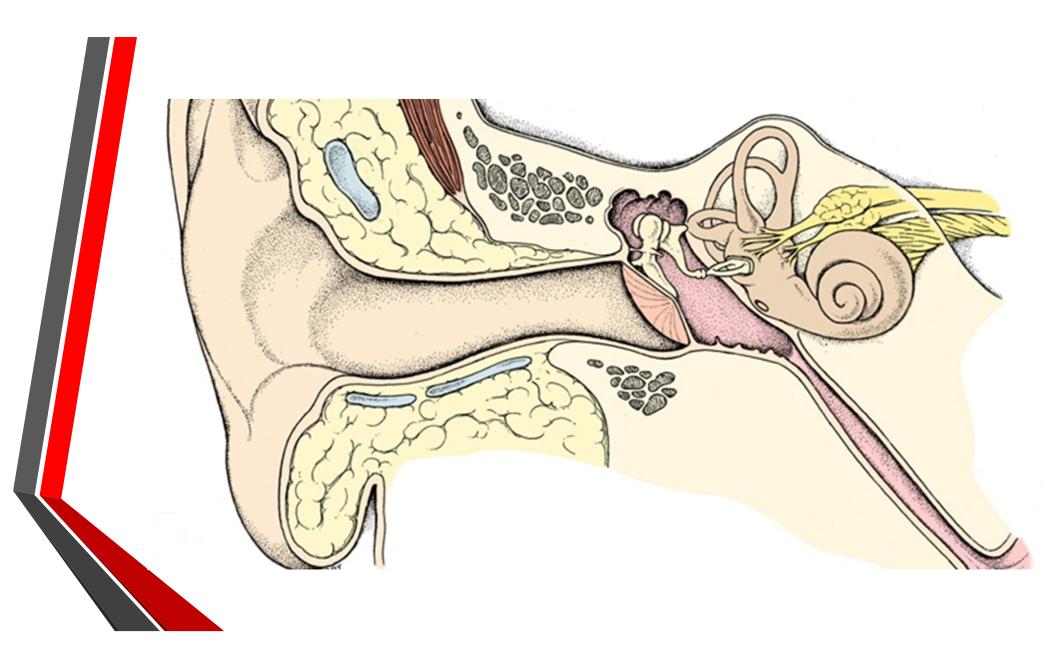
# Future Directions

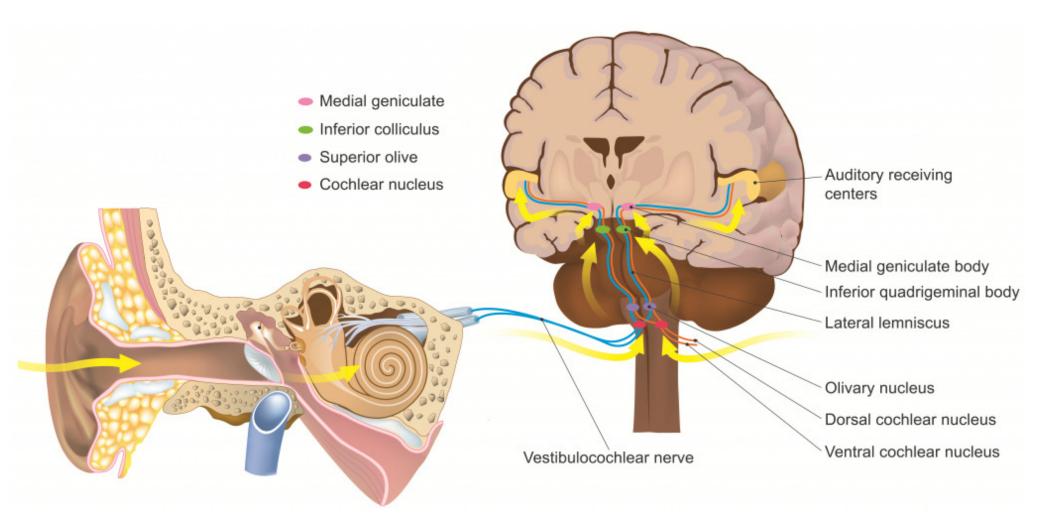
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- Assess the impact of latent response times on repeated/modeled information typical of APD testing
- Correlational Analysis between Cognitive-Linguistic Test Results and Audiological Findings







https://teachmeanatomy.info/wp-content/uploads/The-Cochlear-Nucleus-of-the-Auditory-Pathway-1024x493.png

# Reasons for Variability in Studies

- Some studies used subjective report
- Some studies did not conduct Bone Conduction
- Studies varied in number of subjects
- A screening substituted as an evaluation
- Hearing Loss defined differently.
- Use of age-matched controls

### **Audiological Manifestations**

### RA

- Incidence of HL 24-89%
- Mostly bilateral SNHL
  - Conductive Hearing Loss possible but less common
- Related to length of disease with significant number developing HL during the first year
- Younger patients had thresholds worse than expected for age
- Flare ups- Bilateral fluctuating SNHL common

# SLE

- Incidence of HL
- Mostly bilateral SNHL
- Younger patients had decreased HF thresholds and older patients had decreased LF thresholds when compared to age-matched peers
- Associated with APD dysfunctiontemporal problems
- Flare ups- unilateral fluctuating HL, sudden HL

# Audiological Manifestations Fibromyalgia

- 50% report otologic symptoms without audiologicallydetectable disease
- Asymptomatic high-frequency threshold reduction
- Middle-ear dysfunction not observed (n=67)
- Report hypersensitivity to sound
- Variety of ABR abnormalities which suggests APD

# Audiological Manifestations Lyme Disease

- Rare unilateral sensorineural hearing loss (single case study)
- 5/5 children with chronic LD were found to have mild to moderate auditory processing deficits
- 48% with Lyme-induced hyperacusis (with acoustic reflexes)
- 2% unresponsive to treatment with antibiotics

### **Goals of the Current Study**

- Assess performance in
  - Audiological Performance
    - Middle ear Status
    - Acuity
    - Auditory Processing
- Determine areas for further assessment in future studies
- Determine test protocols to identify deficits

### **Inclusionary/Exclusionary Criteria**

- Diagnosis of rheumatic disease
- No hx. of concussion or other brain injury
- No history of significant noise exposure
- Adult 18 or older
- No active middle ear disease
- No congenital hearing loss

# **Types of Data**

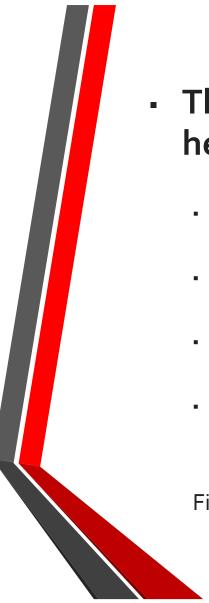
Data	Collected Via
Background Information	Questionnaire
HHIA-S	Questionnaire - <u>link</u>
Hearing Evaluation	Dr. Miller
Auditory Processing Screening	Dr. Miller, Graduate Students

# **Testing Protocol**

- Otoscopy
- Tympanometry
- Ipsilateral and Contralateral Acoustic Reflexes
- Pure tone audiometry- AC and BC with interoctaves > 1k
- SRT's and Word Recognition at 40 dB SL using CID-W22- recorded stimuli.
- Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions (DPOAE) at 65/55 from 1.5k to 8k Hz.
- APD Screening (SCAN 3) if hearing levels symmetrical and better than 25 dB from 1-4k Hz.

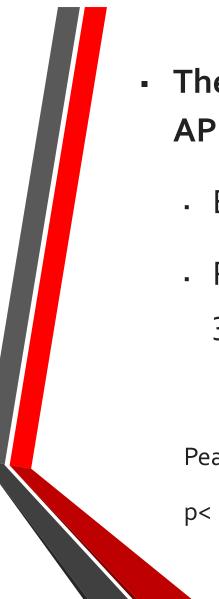
# **Subjects**

- 35 Subjects (all females)
  - Average age= 45.1 years
  - Age Range 20-76
  - Diagnoses:
    - RA = 16
    - Lupus = 5
    - Fibro = 8
    - Lyme = 6



- There was no correlation between medications and hearing loss.
  - Prednisone (p= .708)
  - NSAIDS (p=.486)
  - Methotrexate (p=.782)
  - Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) (p=.527)

Fisher exact test with the level of significance p<.05.



- There was no correlation between the following and APD screening results:
  - Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS) (p=.430)
  - Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data 3 (RAPID-3) (p=.589)

Pearson correlation with the level of significance

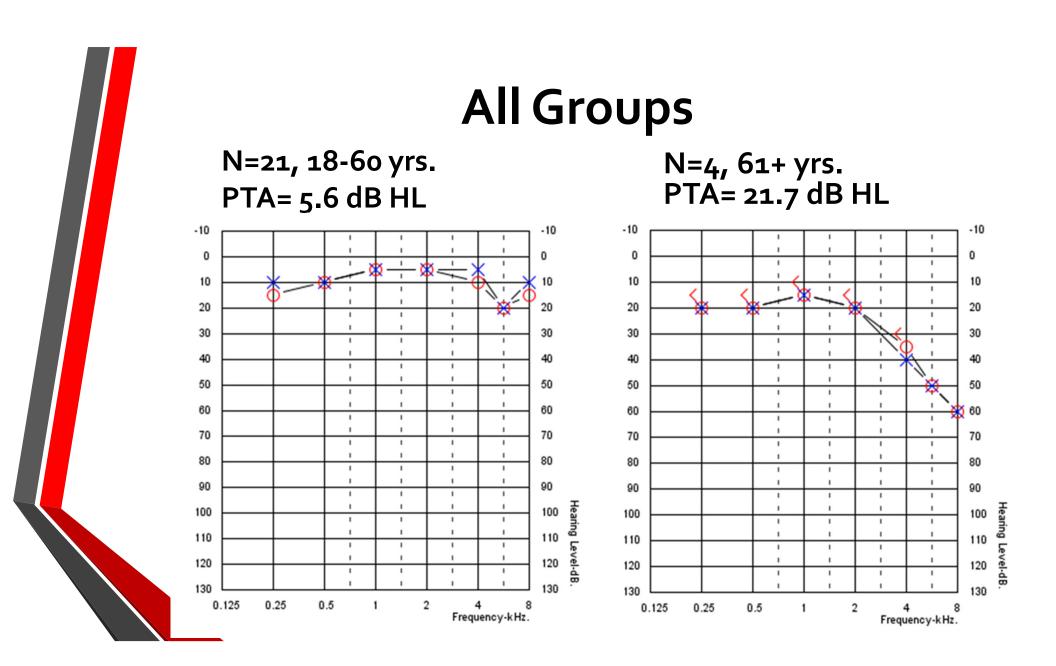
p<.05. (N=34)

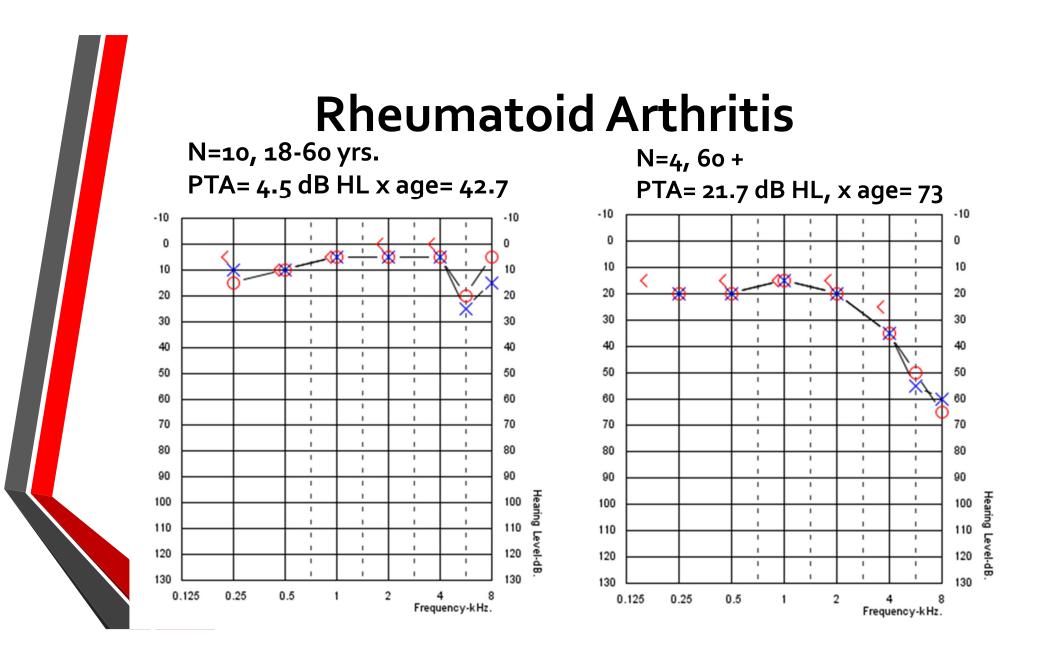


. Hearing Loss (N=34, p=..546)

• APD Screener Results (N=24, p=.671)

Fisher's Exact Test with the level of significance p<.05.





### **Rheumatoid Arthritis**

- 16 participants (not all had a hearing test)
- 16/16, 100% reported vertigo and fluctuating hearing loss post diagnosis
- 13/14 had High frequency, SNHL
  - 9/10 in persons under 60
  - 4/4 in persons over 60
  - 8/10 had 6000 Hz notch

- 1/14 had Type Ad tympanograms with no conductive component
- 4/10 did not pass APD screener
- OAE's absent above 4k Hz in those with at least a mild loss
- AR reflexes mostly present .5-4k in persons with mild to moderate hearing loss.

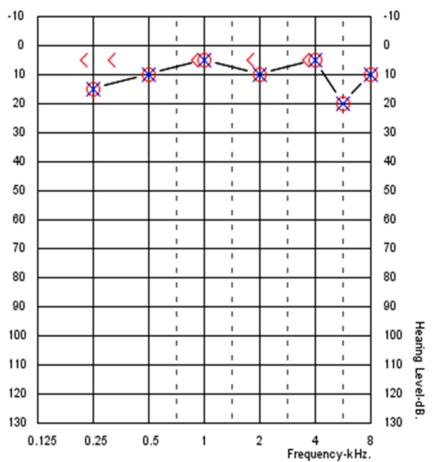
# Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)

N=5, 18-60 yrs. average age= 34.8

PTA= 6.67 dB HL

All Subjects: \*had a 6k Hz notch \*had Type A tympanograms \*failed APD screener

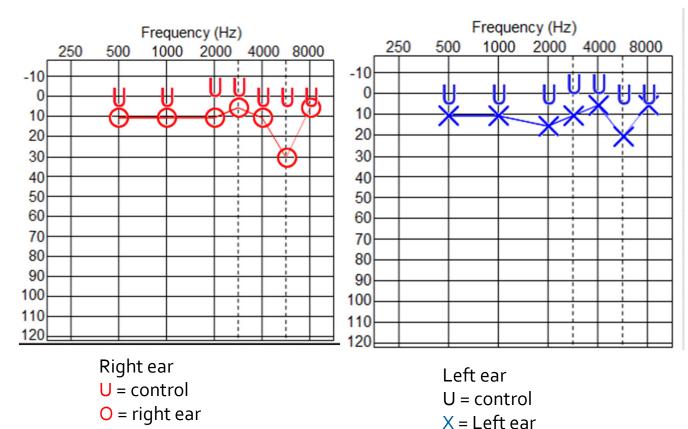
4/5 had sensorineural hearing loss 1/5 had a conductive component)



#### SLE

#### <u>Case #172</u>

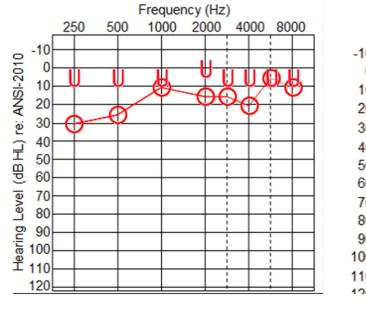
- Female
- 24 years of age
- Diagnosed at 16 years of age
- 6K Hz notch bilaterally
- Mild Sensorineural HL
- HHIA-S Did not Pass
- APD Screener- Did not Pass

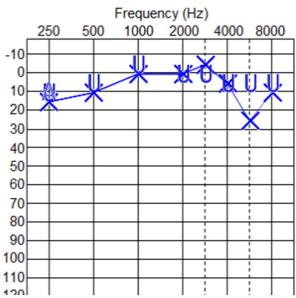


#### SLE

Case #132

- Female
- 44 years of age
- Diagnosed at 29 years
- 6K Hz notch in left ear
- LF conductive loss in right ear (Hx of OME)
- Mild Sensorineural HL
- HHIA-S: PASS
- APD Screener: Did Not PASS





Right ear U= control O = right ear

Left ear U = control X = Left ear

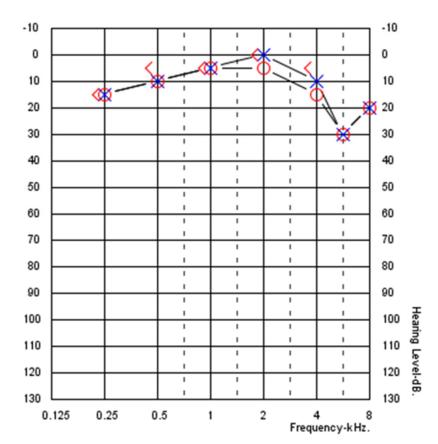
# Fibromyalgia

N=4, 18-60 yrs. average age= 37

PTA= 6.60 dB HL

All Subjects: \*had a 6k Hz notch and HL \*had Type A tympanograms \*failed APD screener

8/8 report tinnitus, vertigo, sensitivity to sound



# Lyme

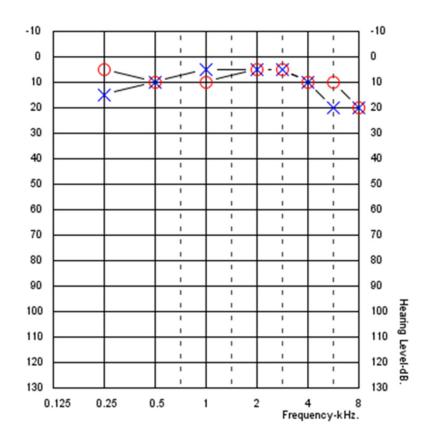
7 participants

N=4, 18-60 yrs. average age= 37

**PTA= 5.42 dB HL** 

2/4 had high frequency hearing loss 3/4 had 6k HL notch

All Subjects: \*had Type A tympanograms \*failed APD screener- CW



## Summary

- 21/25 had a 6k Hz notch (below 60) or sloping loss (60+)
- 17/17 did not pass APD screener.
  - Lyme primary deficit in competing words and other diagnoses had varied results
- Tympanograms were Type A and expected acoustic reflex pattern. (except for 2 persons with OME history).
- Hearing loss or APD not correlated with medications, sleepiness, or disease activity.

## Study Limitations

- Subject Numbers
- Multiple Diagnoses

# Why does it matter?

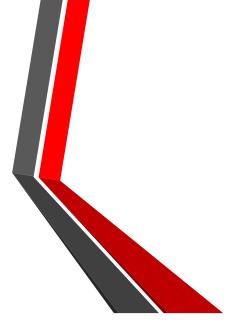
## Application to Audiologists

- Case History- Add questions about rheumatoid conditions
- All individuals with rheumatic conditions should have a full hearing evaluation shortly after diagnosis.
- Hearing levels should be monitored throughout the course of the disease.
- Including interoctaves
- APD screening/evaluation if hearing levels allow
- Refer those with rheumatic disease to a speech pathologist

# Future Directions

- Age and gender-matched controls
- Auditory physiology markers
- APD evaluations for those not passing screener
- Treatment effectiveness for APD

# **Questions?**



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