

Idaho State University

'Best' Practice in Less than Ideal Conditions

Jenn Holst, AuD, Corrie Holmes, AuD, & Gabriel Bargaen, PhD

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Peru Expeditions - Establishing the Need

- Reports of hearing loss
- Those who had a hearing evaluation by age

The first donut chart shows reports of hearing loss: Right (18.42%), Left (13.37%), and Both (72.48%). The second donut chart shows hearing evaluations by age group: 0-20 (6.02%), 21-40 (15.85%), 41-60 (29.27%), 61-80 (18.29%), 81-90 (8.54%), and 91+ (18.05%).

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'Best' Practice - Cerumen Management & Medical Follow-up

- Cerumen Management > Verified by otoscopy
- Tympanometry > Prior to removal
- Irrigation > Body temperature
- Manipulation > In conjunction with irrigation
- Medical Referral > If an issue is identified or if redness is caused by cerumen management

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'Best' - Pure Tone Testing

- Finding a quiet room & equipment
- Instructions & interpreters
- Finding threshold, frequencies tested, & type of loss
- Almost all patients have hearing loss & next steps

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'Best' - Hearing Aid Fitting & Follow-up

- Fitting the hearing aid > Limited styles & options
- Verification > Subjective benefit
- Batteries & supplies > A years supply & tools
- Follow-up > Returning to previous villages

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Future Directions

- The majority of patients seen had hearing loss and could benefit from amplification or other assistive devices.
- Even though audiology services provide a lasting impact, sustainability is key. A plan for follow-up care is necessary after the initial services have been provided.
- Continue working closely with the medical professions when outer and middle ear issues are noted.

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