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### TINNITUS: AN EARLY PRECURSOR TO HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN NOISE EXPOSED WORKERS?

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Previous cross-sectional research has suggested a possible link between the development of tinnitus and the subsequent development of hearing loss in populations exposed to industrial noise. If such a link exists, this may offer an opportunity for early workplace intervention to reduce the risk of such hearing loss in vulnerable workers. This historic nested longitudinal case-control study describes the relationship between pre-existing tinnitus and the subsequent development of hearing loss in a cohort of occupational noise exposed male workers. Evidence of the recent onset of tinnitus as a risk factor for subsequent hearing loss in this cohort was not established, suggesting new onset tinnitus may not be a useful marker for early intervention to prevent hearing loss. Nevertheless, further research is merited in larger such cohorts and including female workers exposed to noise hazards.

#### References:

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