

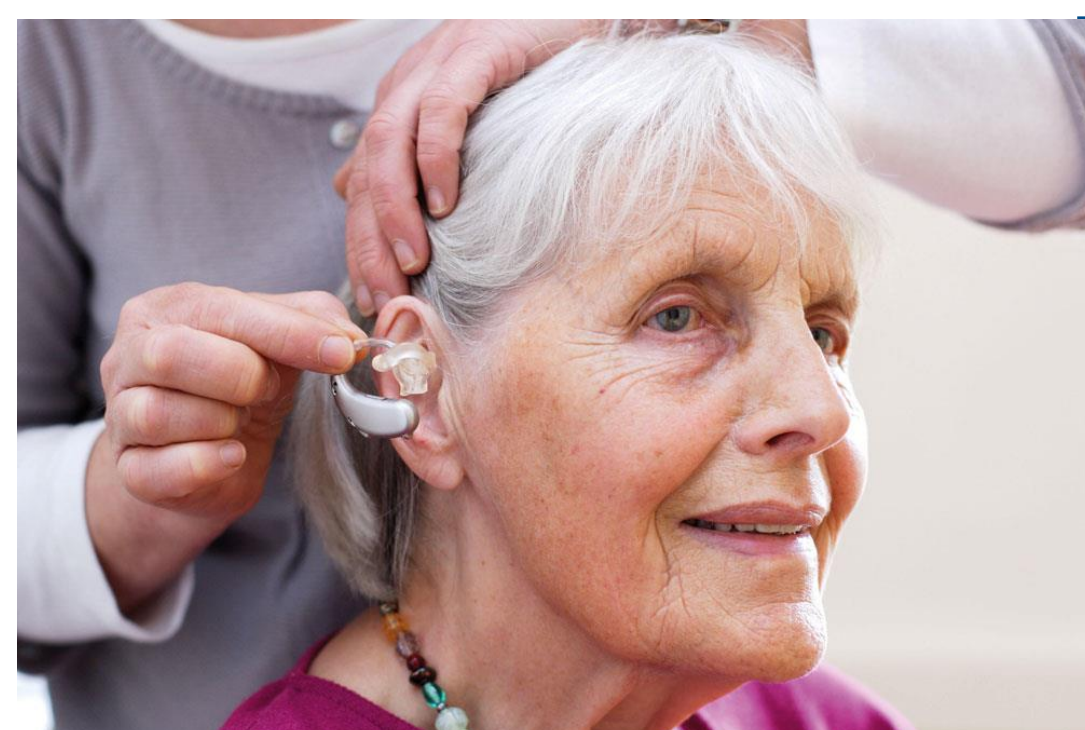
Healthcare professionals' knowledge, skills and information needs on residents' hearing loss and hearing aids: a cross-sectional study

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Introduction

Hearing loss is common among older people, which often contribute to dependence on help to hear and communicate as well as to manage hearing aids, especially among residents in nursing homes¹. Research has shown that healthcare professionals in nursing homes lack the necessary skills to help older people with hearing aids or lack awareness of how to facilitate communication for people with hearing loss^{2,3}.



<https://www.nursingtimes.net/clinical-archive/assessment-skills/hearing-loss-essential-knowledge-and-tips-for-nursing-practice-21-10-2019/>

Objective

The aim was to assess healthcare professionals' self-reported knowledge, experience, skills, competence, and information needs pertaining to residents' hearing loss and hearing aids in Swedish nursing homes.

Material and Methods

Healthcare professionals (n=313) from nine different nursing homes in mid Sweden participated in the study. Data collection took place between 2020 and 2021 through the administration of a questionnaire. The questionnaire covered the following areas 1) *Knowledge and experiences*, 2) *Skills and competence*, and 3) *Need for information*.

Results

The results showed that 88% of the respondents reported that more residents would benefit from having hearing aids. Thirty-six percent of the respondents had received training in the use and care of hearing aids, with 32% believing they had adequate knowledge. Registered nurses generally reported lower perceived knowledge and practical skills concerning hearing aids compared to other groups. Eighty-three percent of the total group reported a need for information regarding hearing loss among older adults and 77% wanted more information about hearing aid maintenance. Additionally, four out of five respondents reported that residents experience social isolation due to hearing loss, with 87% reporting that many residents need help with their hearing aids.

Agreement on knowledge, experiences, skills, competence and need for information

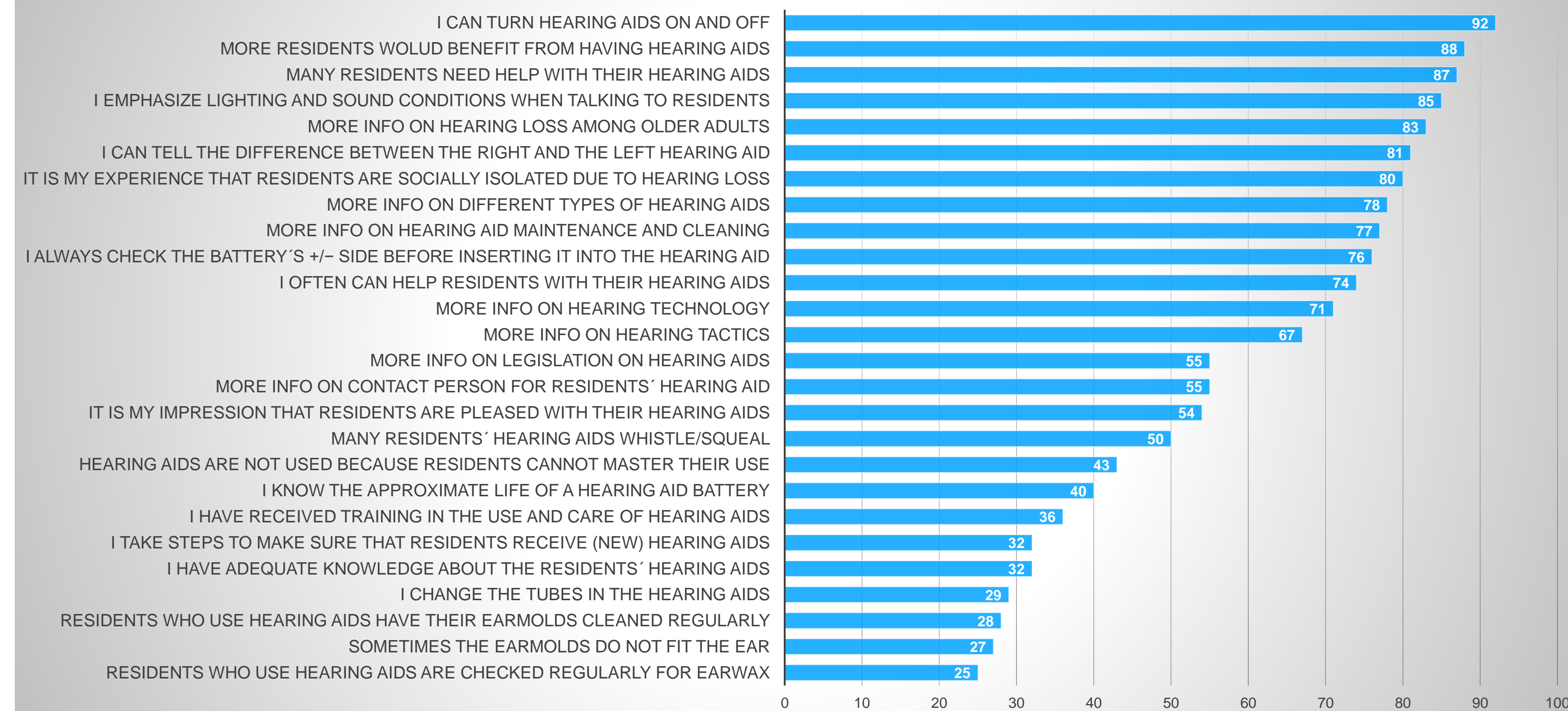


Figure 1. Proportion of agreement on knowledge, experience, skills, competence and need for information (shown in %)

Conclusion

Healthcare professionals reported that the majority of nursing home residents need help with their hearing aids, but only a minority of these professionals had received education on hearing loss and training in hearing aid maintenance. Registered nurses demonstrated lower levels of competence in handling hearing aids compared to other professions. To ensure safe and effective care, it is important that healthcare professionals receive appropriate education and training.

References

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