ENT PHYSICIAN’S PERSPECTIVE ON EVALUATING HEARING LOSS FOR WISCONSIN WORKER’S COMPENSATION

OR

FILLING IN THE MISSING PIECES OF THE PUZZLE
Common causes of Hearing Impairment

- Industrial noise
- Non Industrial Noise (socioacusis)
- Age Related
- Identifiable Ear disease
Loud Noise Effects on Health

- Increased BP and Blood Sugar
- Heart disease

Hearing Loss Associated with increase in MVA
Determination of Compensation
Based on Old Science
Guidelines and Law Establish for the state
Simplicity, Avoidance of Juries
Recognizable Ear Disease, Medical Issues
Audiometrics of NIHL
Hearing Conservation Program  DATA
CHARACTERISTICS OF NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS

SENSORINEURAL

HEARING LOSS SIMILAR IN EACH EAR

AUDIOMETRIC KNOTCH, GREATER LOSS AT 3, 4 AND 6000HZ.
NO FURTHER LOSS

NOT PROFOUND LOSS

NO FURTHER LOSS FROM NOISE AFTER RETIREMENT
HE WHO HAS THE DATA DOESN’T NEED TO SHOUT

PRE-EMPLOYMENT AUDIOGRAMS

PERIODIC AUDIOGRAMS

EXIT AUDIOGRAM

CONSIDER MEDICAL AUDIOGRAM FOR COMPENSABLE LOSS
NO SHOUTING CONTINUED:

NOISE SURVEY

HEARING PROTECTION FOR 85DB, MAYBE LESS

QUALITY HEARING TESTS
SCREENING TESTS ARE SCREENING TESTS

VARIABILITY IN HEARING AID DEALERS VS AUDIOLOGISTS
WRAPPING IT UP:

MOST HEARING LOSS IS NOT INDUSTRIAL

“MATERIAL CONTRIBUTORY CAUSE”

HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM THAT IS EDUCATIONAL

WHAT THE EMPLOYEE DOES OUTSIDE OF WORK PUTS A LOAD ON THEIR ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE
THERE MAY BE OVERALL HEALTH BENEFITS TO LESS NOISE

COST BENEFIT ANALYSES: I HAVE NO IDEA

NOISE + HEARING LOSS NOT A GIVEN, DATA FROM A HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM MAY SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

MEDICAL REVIEW MAY FIND ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION FOR HEARING LOSS

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES SHOULD LEAD TO PROTECTING YOURSELVES AS EMPLOYERS. COMPENSATION CASES ARE DATA DRIVEN