The Journal of Laryngology & Otology

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Authors' Reply

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Cite this article: Brown ECM, Caimino C, Benton CL, Baguley DM. Authors' Reply. *J Laryngol Otol* 2021;**135**:375. https://doi.org/10.1017/S002221512100075X

First published online: 17 March 2021

Dear Editors,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the matters raised by Professor Dasgupta and multidisciplinary colleagues. It is encouraging to hear that this team are a beacon of good practice in the monitoring and assessment of paediatric ototoxicity related to cancer therapy. The protocol described is congruent with existing international guidelines[1] and a forthcoming protocol endorsed by the International Society of Paediatric Oncology.

Our study[2] sought to determine the present situation regarding the assessment of hearing, tinnitus and imbalance across specialist paediatric cancer centres in the UK. We found wide variations in protocols and practice (and, by implication, resources); this situation is far from ideal.

We agree with Professor Dasgupta and colleagues that interdisciplinary working (including oncology, otology and audiology) is urgently needed in this area, both to determine national protocols and to ensure well-resourced and consistent implementation in everyday clinical practice.

References

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2 Brown ECM, Caimino C, Benton CL, Baguley DM. An audit of UK audiological practice in specialist paediatric oncology centres regarding hearing assessment of children at risk of ototoxicity due to chemotherapy. *J Laryngol Otol* 2021;**135**:14–20

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