

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ADVANCED NURSING SCIENCE & PRACTICE

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## **Handheld tympanometry in the diagnosis of idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss**

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Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSNHL) is an urgent condition for which immediate treatment is of paramount importance. Because, patients often seek initial treatment and evaluation in urgent care or primary care settings, an immediate audiological assessment may not be available. As such, handheld tympanometry may have the potential to assist with triage and appropriate management of sudden-onset sensorineural hearing loss. Primary care providers usually have first contact with these individuals and a prompt referral to an otolaryngologist (ENT) or an audiologist is critical. I have designed a flowchart that can be used by these providers. A patient complaining of a single-sided hearing loss can be referred appropriately by following the flowchart and using an otoscope and a handheld tympanometer.

### **Biography**

Edward Garcia is a Clinical Audiologist and an Assistant Professor at California State University, Long Beach. His area of specialty is diagnostic audiological, providing services to linguistically diverse clients of all ages. He is a bilingual, California Licensed Audiologist and has been in private practice for over 20 years.

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