# How does the COVID-19 pandemic affect tinnitus?

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted delivery of healthcare, economic activity, and affected social interactions. The effect of this pandemic on tinnitus is, however, unknown. The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of the pandemic on individuals with tinnitus and to identify mediating factors. This talk discusses the results of this exploratory cross-sectional study undertaken using an online survey that was distributed world-wide. There were 3,103 individuals from 48 countries with the greatest representation from North America and Europe. Although the study was aimed at those with pre-existing tinnitus, some reported that having COVID-19 initiated tinnitus. Having been diagnosed with COVID-19 significantly exacerbated pre-existing tinnitus for others. Mediating factors such as the social and emotional consequences of the pandemic are further explored during this talk. The findings have implications for tinnitus management. They highlight the diverse response both internal and external factors have on tinnitus levels.