

living in low and middle-income countries. A huge yet treatable contributor to this is chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM). The Chronic Ear Survey is a sensitive and disease specific QoL measurement tool in patients with CSOM exploring activity restriction, symptoms and utilisation of medical services.

Method: This study was conducted at the Brinos Ear Care Centre in Nepalgunj, Nepal. A modified Chronic Ear Survey (mCES) was translated into Nepali and administered to patients before surgery and at post-operative follow up by community ear care assistants. The Mann-Whitney U test was used for statistical analysis.

Results: The mCES was administered to 64 patients pre-operatively and 28 patients post-operatively. Disease specific QoL in patients with CSOM was demonstrated to be better overall in patients post-surgery and specifically in the domains of activity limitation and symptoms. No significant change was demonstrated in utilisation of medical services ($p < 0.1$)

Conclusions: Surgical intervention for patients with CSOM in Nepal improves ear specific QoL. This manifests specifically in a reduction in severity of symptoms and fewer restrictions on activity. Surgery in this population does not significantly change healthcare seeking behaviour and this must be explored further in the context of access to surgery and attitudes towards healthcare in this population.

1556 Does Surgical Intervention Improve Quality of Life for Patients with Chronic Ear Disease in Nepal?

F. Ahmed¹, C. de Cates², R. Bahadur Bohara³, R. Youngs⁴

¹West Middlesex Hospital, London, United Kingdom, ²University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom, ³Brinos Ear Care Centre, Nepalgunj, Nepal, ⁴International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

Aim: To assess change in quality of life (QoL) pre- and post-surgery for patients with chronic ear disease (CED) in Nepal. Hearing loss is the fourth leading cause of disability world-wide with 90% of those affected