



Starkey

Exploring Innovations in Tinnitus Management and Relief

For technical questions or log-in information please contact Steven Le at 0437 622 596 Steven.Le@Starkey.com
Access Code: 2861 729 0562 if needed

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Exploring Innovations in Tinnitus Management and Relief

The Webinar will start in....

00:05:00

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Exploring Innovations in Tinnitus Management and Relief

Judy Grobstein
Regional Director of Education and Audiology - APAC

Steven Le
Consumer Support Specialist and Trainer- ANZ

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Technical Issues



If not using speakers and you haven't already, please call into the call center number and enter access code 2861 729 0562
(Australia +61 2 85181923, NZ +64 9 291750, Singapore +65 31581414)

Please be sure to keep microphones muted

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Questions



Please share any questions you may have in the Chat Box directed to **All Panelists**. We will do our best to answer them throughout the training.

WebEx Control Panel



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Endorsed Session



This launch webinar is endorsed for Audiology Australia and ACAud inc. HAASA points

You must stay logged on for the full session

AudA members must complete a 10 questions quiz with a passing score of 70% as well as your CPD Reflections and Evaluations

ACAud inc. HAASA members must complete the quiz to receive full points.

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Learner Outcomes

1

Identify the causes, triggers and symptoms of tinnitus

2

Discuss the sound therapy stimulus options available from Starkey

3

Describe how to adjust tinnitus controls in the Pro Fit software

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tin·ni·tus

[“TIN-it-us”, “tin-NITE-us”]

a symptom characterized by the perception of sound in the absence of an external stimulus



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Tinnitus

Nearly 15% of Adults **(1 in 7)** worldwide experience tinnitus

More than 740 million adults worldwide have at least one symptom of tinnitus

120 million adults are severely affected by the tinnitus they experience

American Tinnitus Association



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Classifying Tinnitus

Traditionally classified by whether it could be heard by the clinician

Objective

Audible to another person

Internal acoustic source
Ex. muscle spasms or vascular tumor

Detected via human ear, stethoscope, or microphone

Represents less than **1%** of cases

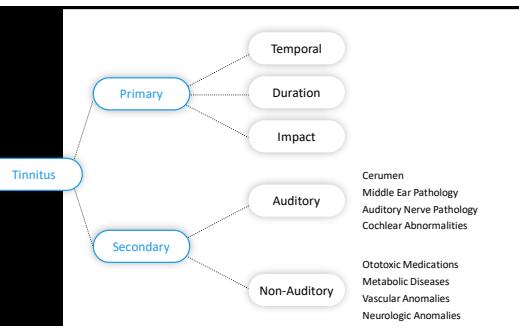
Subjective

Only heard by the patient

May be idiopathic or caused by various disorders involving the head/neck or other systems

99% of all cases

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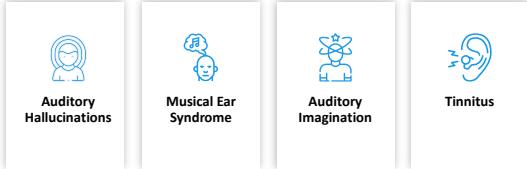
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Primary Tinnitus

TEMPORAL CHARACTERISTICS	DURATION	IMPACT
Spontaneous	Recent	Non-Bothersome
Temporary	Persistent	Bothersome
Occasional	+	
Intermittent		
Constant	+	

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Phantom Auditory Perceptions



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Tinnitus Evaluation



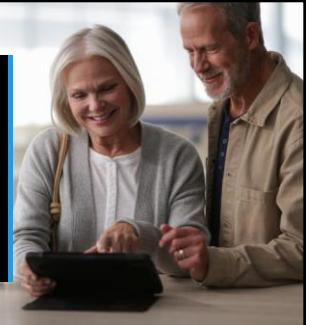
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Evaluation



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Self-Assessment



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Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI)

25-item questionnaire that is used to identify, quantify and evaluate the severity of difficulties that a patient may be experiencing because of their tinnitus

Probes the functional, emotional and catastrophic response reactions to tinnitus

Courtesy of the American Tinnitus Association

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Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI)

25-item questionnaire assesses the severity of your tinnitus over the previous week. The questions are grouped into 8 subscales or "factors"

Intrusiveness

Sense of Control

Cognition

Sleep

Auditory

Relaxation

Quality of Life

Emotional Distress

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Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI)

Useful in both clinical and research settings

The Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI) is a self-report questionnaire designed to assess the impact of tinnitus on a person's life. It consists of two pages of questions, each with a legend for scoring.

Page 1 Legend:

- 0 = Never
- 1 = Seldom
- 2 = Sometimes
- 3 = Often
- 4 = Very Often

Page 2 Legend:

- 0 = Never
- 1 = Seldom
- 2 = Sometimes
- 3 = Often
- 4 = Very Often

Oregon Health & Science University (2008, 2012)

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Tinnitus and Hearing Survey (THS)

Developed as a tool to rapidly differentiate hearing problems from tinnitus problems

Used in clinical trials and clinically

Also has two items that screen for sound intolerance problems

American Journal of Audiology (2015)

A. Tinnitus

Over the last week, answer the following questions about your tinnitus. Circle the best word, seldom, rarely or never.

B. Hearing

Over the last week, answer the following questions about your hearing. Circle the best word, seldom, rarely or never.

C. Sound Intolerance

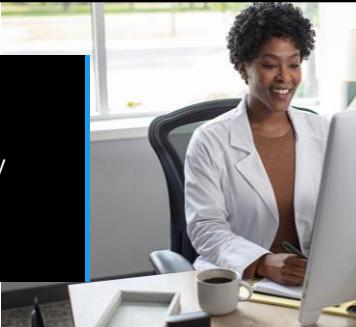
Over the last week, answer the following questions about your sound intolerance. Circle the best word, seldom, rarely or never.

D. Sound Tolerance

Over the last week, answer the following questions about your sound tolerance. Circle the best word, seldom, rarely or never.

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Case History



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Risk Factor for Tinnitus

Thyroid issues	Ear infection	Acoustic Neuroma
Head or neck trauma	Cardiovascular disease	
Otosclerosis	Meniere's disease	Noise exposure
Sudden hearing loss		Drugs and medications

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Possible Risk Factor for Tinnitus

Alcohol usage	Geographic region	
Anxiety	Depression	
Lyme disease	Health status	
Genetics	Low weight	Smoking

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At Risk Populations for Tinnitus

Veterans and Military Personnel

Over 2 million veterans receive compensation for tinnitus



Men

Senior Citizens

Caucasians

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Other At Risk Populations

Workers in loud environments

- Autoworkers
- Firefighters/Police/EMT
- Manufacturing jobs

Those who have had a traumatic brain injury

- May be caused by the injury
- May be caused by medications used to treat injuries

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Recreational Noise Exposure

Musicians and Music Lovers

Motorsports and Hunting Enthusiasts

Gamers

iPod/Personal Listening Device Use

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Aggravators of Tinnitus

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Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

Any degree of hearing loss

Any type of hearing loss

Any cause or type of onset

Changes in hearing loss and changes in tinnitus tend to occur independently of one another

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Tinnitus and Hearing Loss

No correlation between tinnitus severity and hearing threshold, though those with hearing loss are found to have a higher tinnitus severity.

TFI Scores

Mild Annoyance: Normal Hearing ~17, SNHL ~11

Significant Annoyance: Normal Hearing ~14, SNHL ~12

Severe Annoyance: Normal Hearing ~2, SNHL ~16

Mahafza N, Zhao F, El-Beltagy A, Chen F. A comparison of the severity of tinnitus in patients with and without hearing loss using the Tinnitus Functional Index (TFI). *Int J Audiol.* 2021 Mar;50(3):220-228. doi: 10.1080/14992027.2020.1804051. Epub 2020 Aug 13. PMID: 32787604.

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Quality of life impacts

Impact Category	Percentage
Annoying, but does not significantly impact life	34%
Trouble concentrating	16%
Sleep problems	18%
Anxiety	13%
Social isolation	7%
Unable to work	2%
Ongoing depression	7%
Barely notice it	4%

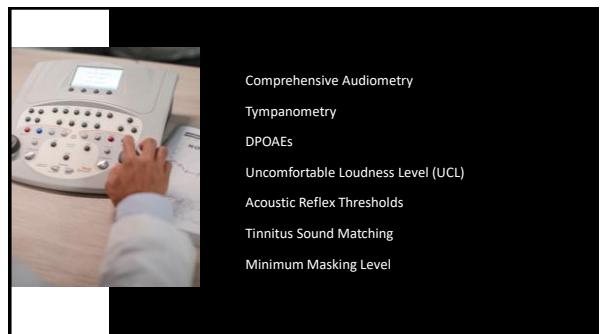
Quality of life impacts

- Thoughts and Emotions
- Sleep
- Concentration
- Socialization
- Physical Health
- Economic Well-being

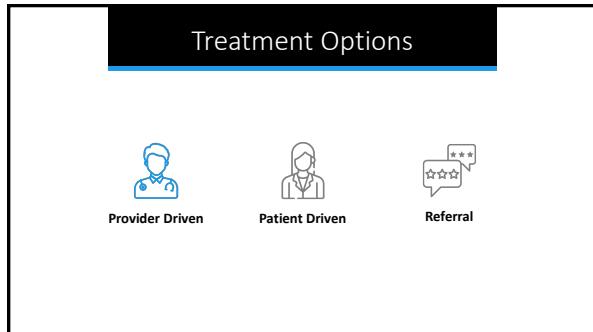
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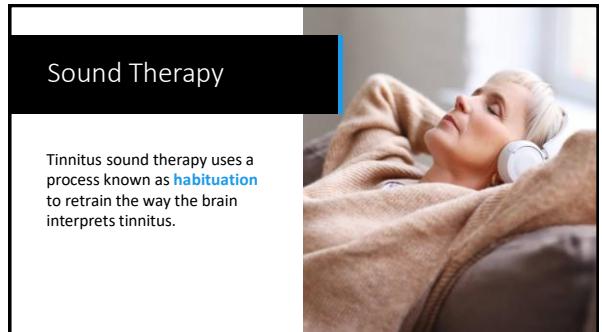
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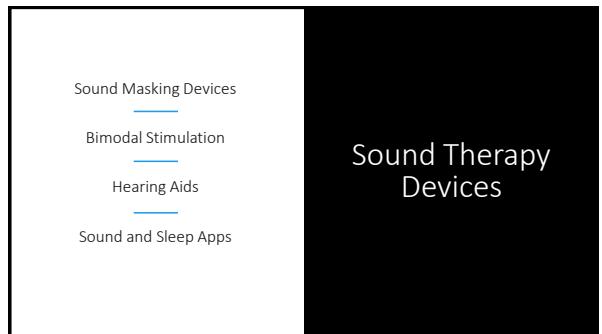
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Sound Masking Devices

Sound machines offer a choice of different types of sounds in addition to white noise and can also include features like built-in clocks, alarms, night lights, app integrations and more

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Bimodal Stimulation

Bimodal stimulation is a specific approach within the broader field of neuromodulation, focusing on the simultaneous use of two sensory modalities to modulate neural activity



Tactile Stimulation
Relies on vibration to generate sensations on the skin



Electrical Stimulation
Uses electrical currents to stimulate nerves or muscles under the skin

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Maskers in Hearing Aids

Acoustic Therapy is using sound stimulation either from amplification of external sounds or the generation of additional sounds.

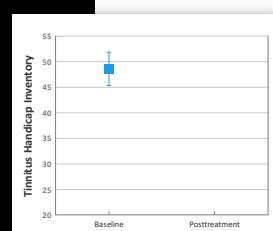
Tinnitus maskers are additional sounds generated that are typically set at a level below a patient's tinnitus to potentially cover it up.



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Maskers in Hearing Aids

RESEARCH DATA
In this study, participants were provided multiple masker options to use at their discretion in order to achieve tinnitus relief. Study was comprised of 26 individuals with hearing loss. Participants completed an 8-week field trial wearing hearing aids providing acoustic therapy via three tinnitus masker options set just below minimum masking level. Tinnitus Handicap Inventory was used before starting acoustic therapy and posttreatment to measure the patients' tinnitus handicap.



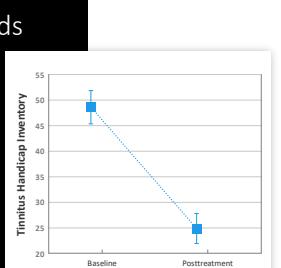
Source: Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, Vol. 64, 1415, Figure 2, April 2021.

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Maskers in Hearing Aids

DATALOGGING RESULTS
Average hearing aid use was 9.4 hr ($SD = 4.2$ hr) during the field trial, and Average of 34.4% of that time was spent utilizing a tinnitus masker

13.8% with white noise;
10.5% with audiogram-shaped noise;
10.0% with custom noise



Source: Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, Vol. 64, 1415, Figure 2, April 2021.

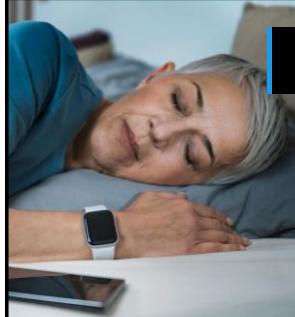
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Sound/Sleep Apps

RESEARCH DATA:
22 participants with subjective tinnitus Used application for **6 months**

A significant reduction in subjective tinnitus loudness and annoyance and subjective stress level were observed. The THI scores were significantly decreased after 6 months. Findings demonstrate the potential benefit of the tinnitus application for tinnitus improvement

Seo, H. Y., Jo, M., & Moon, I. J. (2023). *Healthcare*, 11(17).



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Tinnitus Protocols

Tinnitus Retraining Therapy
Dr. Pawel Jastreboff

Progressive Tinnitus Management
National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research

Tinnitus Activities Treatment
Dr. Richard Tyler at the University of Iowa



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Treatment Options

 **Provider Driven**

 **Patient Driven**

 **Referral**

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Lifestyle Management

- Quit Smoking
- Diet Change
- Getting a better night's rest
- Relaxation/Meditation
- Exercise
- Support Groups

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Treatment Options

 **Provider Driven**

 **Patient Driven**

 **Referral**

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Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Modify thoughts and beliefs to decrease negative behaviors



Cognitive Skills
Reduce negative thinking, develop a habituation perspective on tinnitus, and become an effective self-coach to guide yourself through the process

Mindfulness Skills
Calm down, promote tinnitus acceptance, and regain control of attention

Self-Guided Sound Enrichment
Soften your perception of tinnitus

Behavioral Skills
Take the courageous action needed to fully rejoin your life

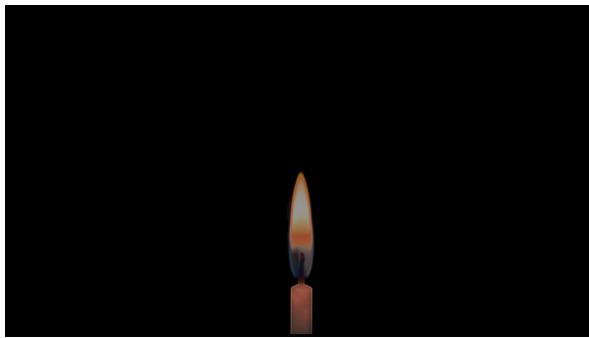
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Multiflex Tinnitus Pro

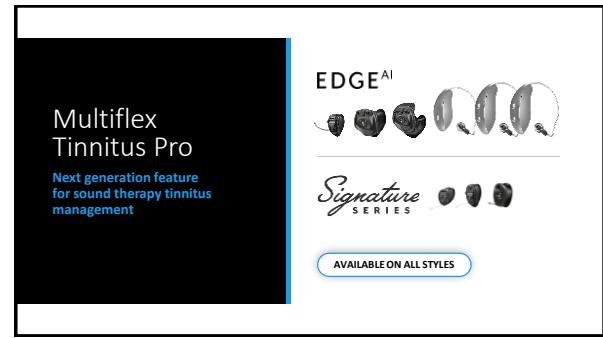
Judy Grobstein
Regional Director of Education and Audiology- APAC



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Multiflex Tinnitus Pro

Accessed from the Fly Out Menu within Pro Fit

Use the dropdown menu to select the stimulus type

All options offer a 10,000 Hz bandwidth with 16 bands of adjustability

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Tilt Control

Changes the shape and loudness of the masker

Adjusts gain as a function of frequency

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Tilt Control

Low Frequency Emphasis

Click to decrease high frequency output while increasing low frequency output.

High Frequency Emphasis

Click to increase high frequency output while decreasing low frequency output.

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Tilt Control

Low Frequency Emphasis

Click to decrease high frequency output while increasing low frequency output.

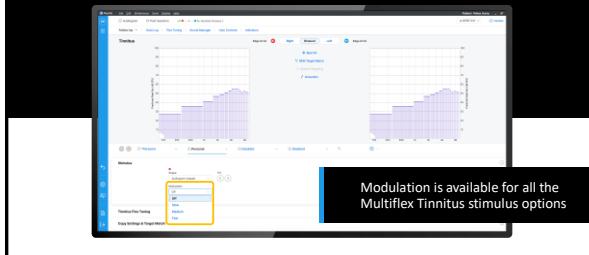
High Frequency Emphasis

Click to increase high frequency output while decreasing low frequency output.

— = Original response

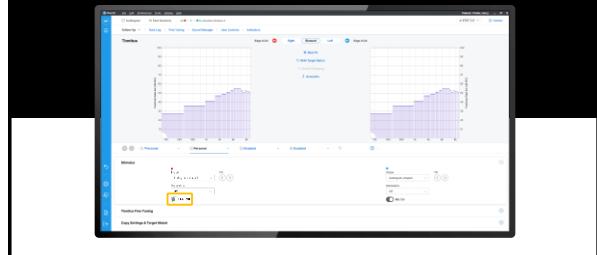
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Modulation



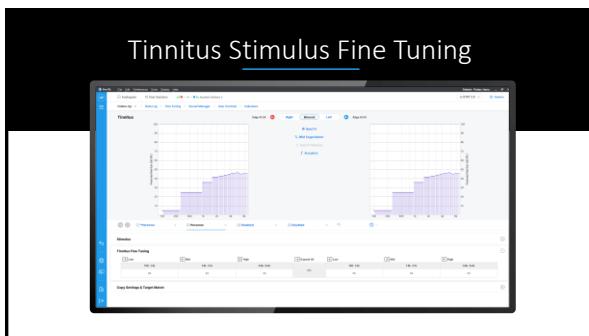
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Mic ON/OFF



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Tinnitus Stimulus Fine Tuning



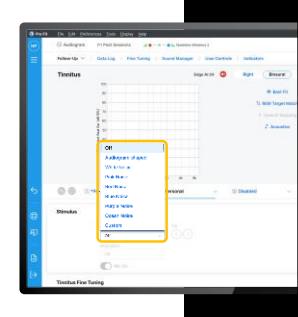
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Tinnitus Stimuli

Eight Stimulus Options

Audiogram-Shaped Noise	Blue Noise
White Noise	Purple Noise
Pink Noise	Ocean Noise
Red Noise	Custom Noise*

* 24 & 20 tech tiers



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Starkey Pro Fit

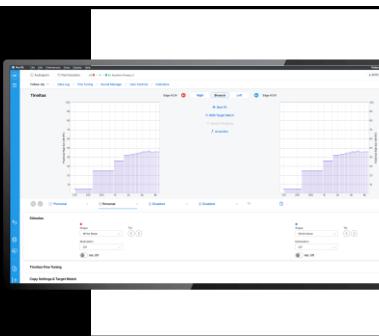
White Noise Tinnitus

Signal level based on the PTA and comprised of equal energy distribution across the frequencies.

Flat response may result in some segments of the stimulus being too loud or too soft

Vent interactions are accounted for

Stimulus is adjustable



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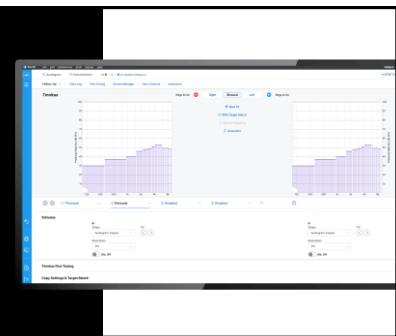
Starkey Pro Fit

Audiogram Shaped Tinnitus

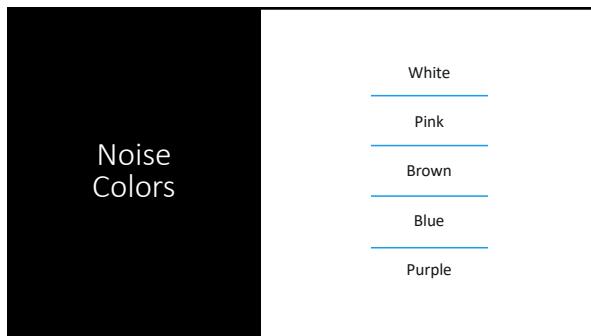
Automatic shaping of the stimulus based on the hearing loss provides a more tailored masking stimulus

Vent interactions are accounted for

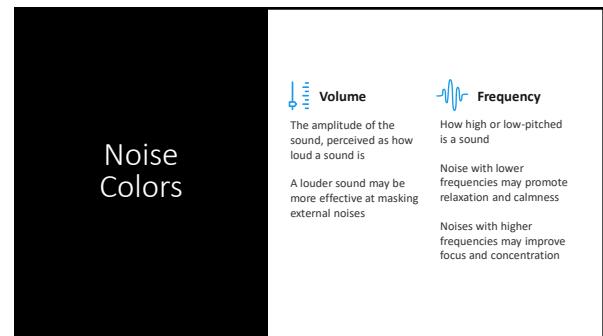
Stimulus is adjustable



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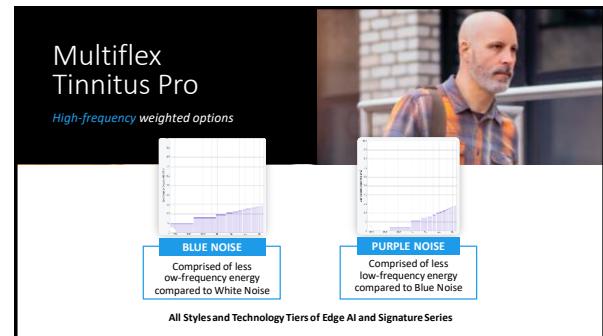
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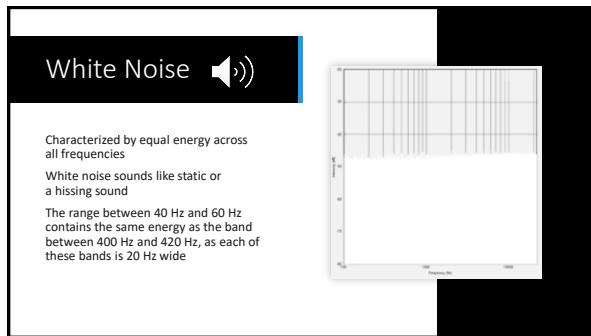
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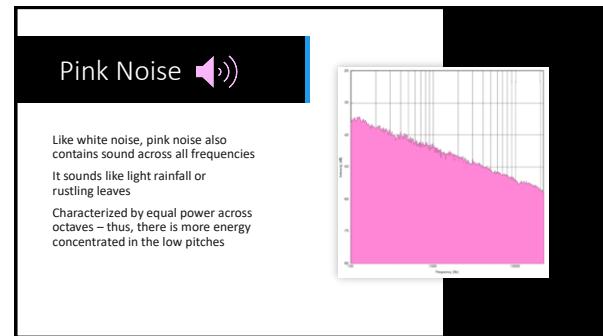
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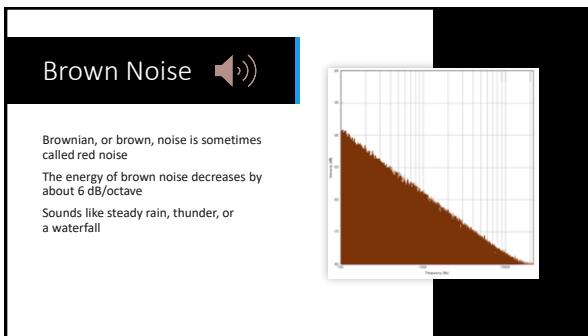
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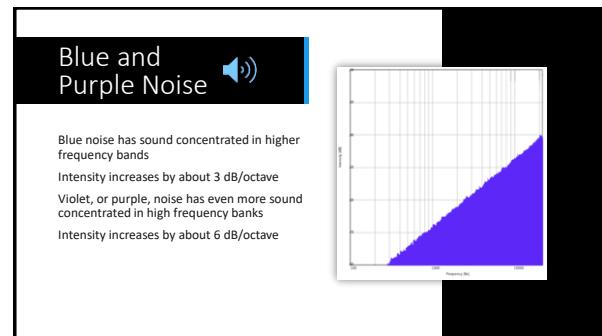
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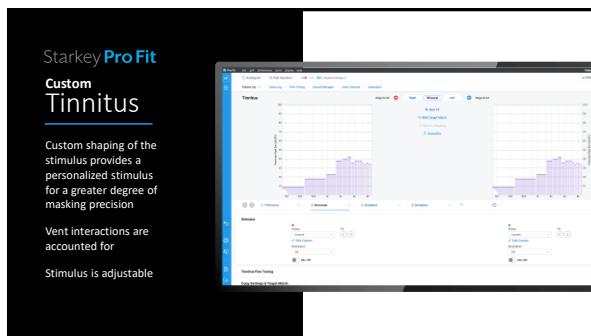
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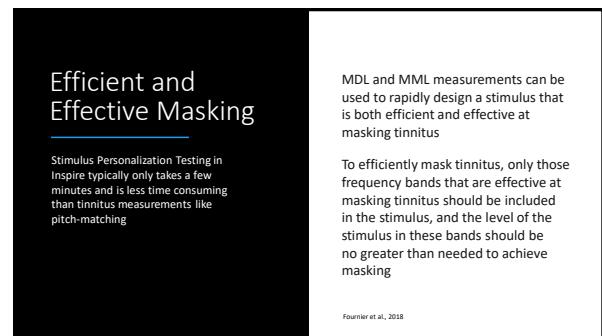
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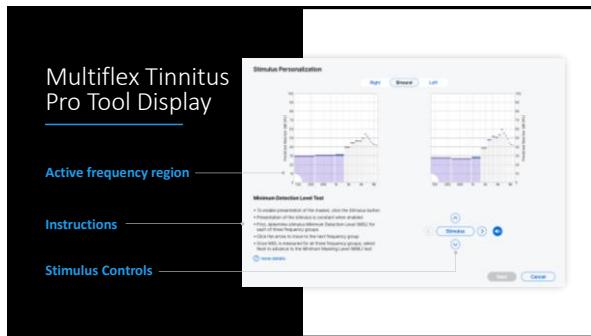
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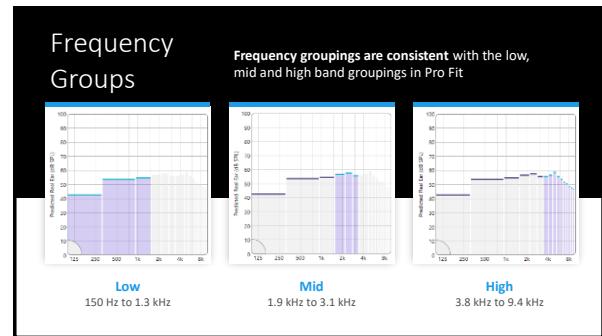
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Minimum Detection Level (MDL) Test

Stimulus Personalization

GOAL To identify the softest detectable level of the Multiflex Tinnitus stimulus

1 Click on the 'Stimulus' button to turn it ON

2 Hearing aid microphones will mute automatically when the stimulus is ON

3 Use the up and down arrows to increase or decrease the level of the stimulus in the frequency group displayed to **identify when the stimulus is just detectable**

4 Use the right and left arrows to make measurements in the other frequency groups

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Minimum Masking Level (MML) Test

GOAL

To identify the softest level of the Multiflex Tinnitus stimulus required to just notice or mask the tinnitus depending on the management approach of choice

Display and controls are the same for this test

Increase the stimulus level to determine **the softest stimulus level required to just detect or mask the tinnitus** for each of the three frequency groups

Stimulus Personalization

Right | Binaural | Left

Minimum Masking Level Test

- To reduce perception of the tinnitus, often the masking habitat is the same as the tinnitus. This is the case when masking the tinnitus with a stimulus that has the same frequency content as the tinnitus.
- Personalization of the stimulus is important when masking tinnitus. The masking stimulus needs to be adjusted to match the frequency group of the tinnitus. This is done by selecting the masking habitat and applying the customized strategy.

[View details](#)

Create New Test | [Create Next Test](#) | [Using Stimulus](#) | [Cancel](#)

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ALL NEW
Tinnitus
Program

Tinnitus may be
enabled from the
Program dropdown

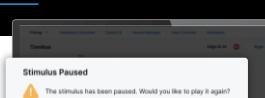
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Tinnitus Play/Pause allows professionals to consider the stimulus shape and settings prior to playing the stimulus

Defaults 'Paused'

The tinnitus stimuli must be playing to navigate away from the Tinnitus screen

ALL NEW



Allows navigation away from the Tinnitus screen

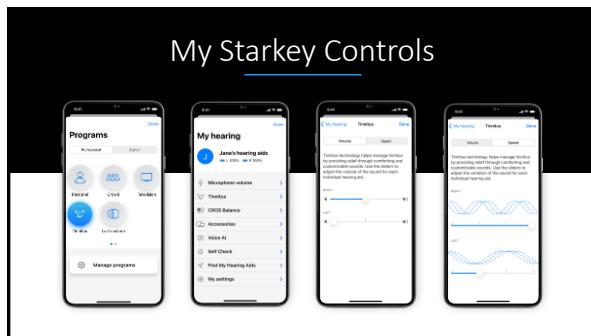
Returns to the Tinnitus screen for additional adjustments

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The screenshot displays the Tinnitus Stimulus software interface. On the left, the 'User Controls' panel includes sections for 'Headphones' (with a dropdown for 'Type' and a 'Preview' button), 'Head & Body' (with 'Stay Awake' and 'Sleep Mode' buttons), 'Hand & Eye' (with 'Edge Modes' and 'Stay Awake' buttons), and 'Volume' (with a 'Volume' slider and 'Volume Step Size' dropdown). On the right, the 'Output Range and Step Size' panel shows 'Analog Out Controls' (with 'Preset' dropdowns for 'Preset 1' and 'Preset 2') and 'Digital Out Controls' (with 'Preset' dropdowns for 'Preset 1' and 'Preset 2'). Below these are 'ECG Bridge and Step Size' and 'Threshold Output Range and Step Size' sections. At the bottom, there is an 'Additional Configuration Options' section.

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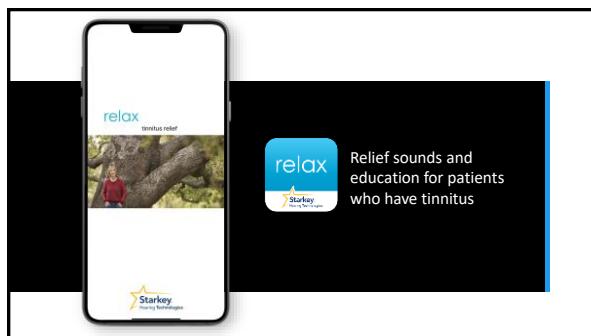
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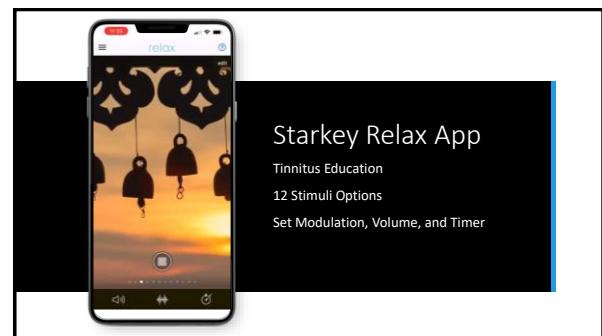
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Tech Tier and Style Differences		
	Edge AI & Signature Series	Genesis AI
White Noise	All styles and tiers	All styles and tiers
Audiogram-shaped	All styles and tiers	All styles; 24, 20, & 16
Custom Masking	All styles; 24 & 20	All styles; 24 & 20
Color Masking	All styles and tiers	N/A
Ocean	All styles and tiers	N/A

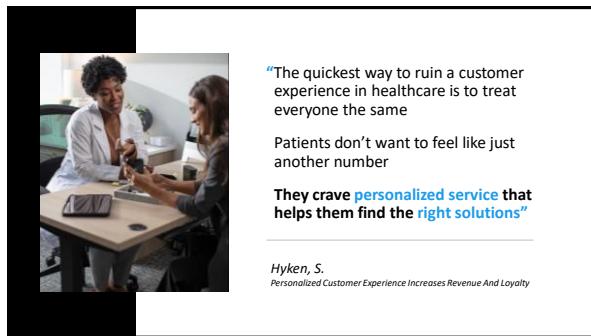
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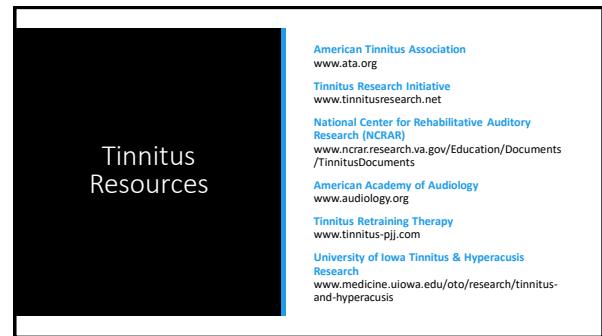
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Resources

StarkeyPro.com

Multiflex Tinnitus Pro QuickTIP
Multiflex Tinnitus Technology Handbook
Tinnitus Handicap Inventory Questionnaire

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Starkey Resources

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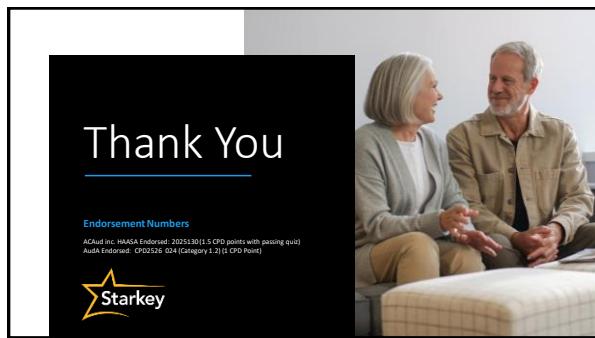
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How did we do?

We'd love your feedback on today's training session

APAC StarkeyLearn Training Survey

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