INTRODUCTION

Tinnitus is any perception of sound in the absence of an external acoustic stimulus. It is commonly associated with hearing loss, regardless of etiology (presbycusis and Ménière's disease, in this case).

Tinnitus has a variable impact on quality of life of patients and can be masked in order to reduce the perception of sound. The whole of the etiology in the tinnitus pitch, loudness and annoyance is still poorly understood.

OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to analyze the difference in acufenometry between patients with presbycusis and Ménière's disease and correlate the findings with the annoyance caused by tinnitus.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

This cross-sectional study included 59 patients with unilateral tinnitus treated at a tertiary hospital. Out of these patients, 38 had presbycusis and 21 had Ménière’s disease. Acufenometry was performed to determine the pitch and loudness of tinnitus in the two groups. The tinnitus handicap inventory (THI) and visual analogue scale (VAS) was used to evaluate the annoyance caused due to tinnitus. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS and the Student’s t test.

RESULTS

The mean age of the patients with Ménière’s disease and presbycusis was 56.05 ± 8.73 years and 67.74 ± 8.73 years, respectively. Similar tinnitus pitch was observed in patients with Ménière’s disease and those with presbycusis however, the loudness varied between the groups. The THI and VAS score were similar between the two groups.

CONCLUSIONS

Although tinnitus was louder in patients with Ménière's disease than in those with presbycusis, the tinnitus pitch and its impact on patient quality of life was similar in both groups.