



Heard It
Through
The Grapevine
Audiology, PC

Heard It Through The Grapevine Audiology, PC
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Motorcycle Helmets Don't Protect Hearing Damage Caused by Wind Noise

Bath, United Kingdom- First, it was convertibles that were reported to cause hearing loss. Now, a new study indicates how motorcycle helmets may also be contributing to hearing loss for riders, despite helmets covering ears from the high-speed wind noise.

The study, "Motorcycle helmets and the frequency dependence of temporary hearing threshold shift," is available online.

While the roar of a motorcycle engine is loud, past studies, according to the authors, have revealed that the biggest source of noise for motorcyclists is still generated by air whooshing over the riders' helmets. Even at legal speeds, the wind sound can exceed safe decibel levels, yet there was no indication for how the wind noise directly affected the motorcyclists' hearing.

Now, researchers from the University of Bath and Bath Spa University have mapped the airflow and noise patterns for motorcyclists by placing helmets on top of mannequin heads, then mounting these in a wind tunnel and turning on the fans.

By placing microphones at different locations around the helmet and at the mannequin's ear, the researchers found that an area underneath the helmet and near the chin bar is a significant source of noise that reaches rider's eardrums.

The team also investigated how the helmet angle and wind speed affected the

loudness. Future will move beyond the wind tunnel to real-life riders on the open road.

The findings, described in the Journal of Acoustical Society of America, may one day be used to design quieter helmets, saving riders' ears for the enjoyment of hard biker rock, the researchers say.

SOURCE: The American Institute of Physics



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HEARING LOSS SUPPORT GROUPS

Hearing Loss Association of America

Local chapters within DFW metroplex

www.hearingloss.org/chapters

SayWhatClub (SWC)

Non-profit internet based organization run by
volunteers for people with hearing loss or
interested in hearing loss issues.

www.saywhatclub.com



➤ A man sitting next to his friend who is HOH says, "Can you lend me \$250?" His friend replies, "I can't hear you, try my other ear." The man moves over to the other side, thinks a moment, shrugs, and says, "I said, can you lend me \$500?" His friend turns to him, raises an eyebrow and pointedly says, "Go back to the first ear."

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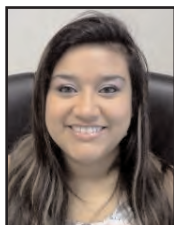
Taking care of ears throughout the years

Meet Our Staff



Tara Wheeler, Au.D.

Dr. Wheeler received her Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Texas at Dallas. She resides in Grapevine with her husband and daughter. Dr. Wheeler enjoys knitting and traveling in her spare time.



Eneida Zavala

Eneida Zavala is the new full time office assistant. She has her certificate in Surgical Technology and is currently working on her Science and Nursing degree. She has been working in healthcare for 5 years and likes the patient interaction. Eneida enjoys arts & crafts, sports and spending time with her family.



Andrea Chang

Andrea Chang is the new business manager for HTGA. She grew up in South Carolina and received her B.A. in Health Administration from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. She has been working in medical business office management/administration for over 15 years. Andrea is married and enjoys listening to music, watching movies and traveling with her husband.