

Audiometric descriptors for pure-tone audiograms

BATOD National Executive Council wishes to standardise definitions, descriptions and forms used for categorising audiometric descriptors using the following terms based primarily on current hearing threshold levels.

Audiometric descriptor dBHL

Mild hearing loss	21 – 40 dB	
Moderate hearing loss	41 – 70 dB	
Severe hearing loss	71 – 95 dB	
Profound hearing loss	in excess of 95dB	
Type of loss:	conductive	} <i>qualified by (as appropriate)</i> <i>bilateral, unilateral, symmetrical,</i> <i>high frequency, low frequency</i>
	sensori-neural	
	mixed	
Age of onset:	congenital	
	acquired – specify age	

Further comment if appropriate: eg progressive, fluctuating, sudden, traumatic

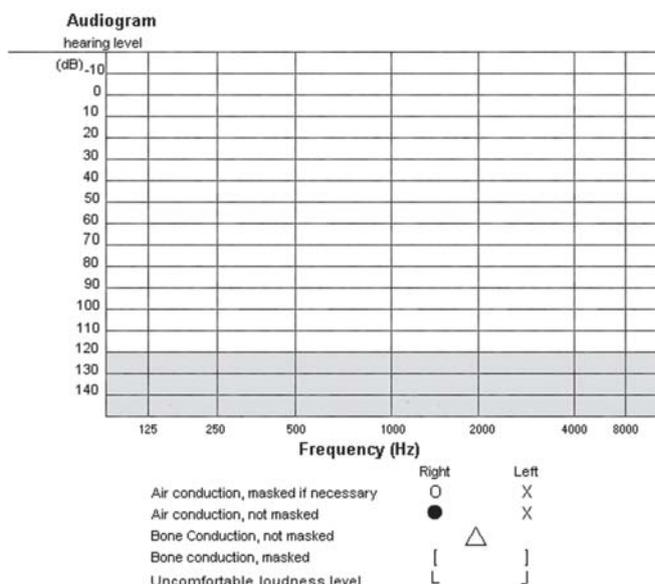
For the purpose of this document these descriptors are based on the average hearing threshold levels at 250, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000 Hz in the better ear. If no response is obtained at any frequency due to severity of impairment, the reading should be given a value of 130 dBHL assuming an audiometer maximum output of 120 dB. Similarly any hearing threshold level better than 0 dBHL shall be given the value of 0 dBHL. Averages do not imply any particular configuration and additional qualifications can be made.

These descriptors and calculations are as recommended by the British Society of Audiology (1988) and endorsed by the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf.

Audiogram format

it is recommended that the audiogram format approved by the British Society of Audiology (1989) is used and completed using the symbols shown.

NB There are no separate symbols for 'masked' and 'not masked' air conduction thresholds. When an air symbol is denoted on the 'final' audiogram it should indicate the true threshold, regardless of whether masking had to be applied or not.



Remarks

Audiometer calibration standards AC BC Tested by:

References

British Society of Audiology (1988) descriptors for pure tone audiograms.

British Journal of Audiology: 22, 123

British Society of Audiology (1988) recommended format for audiogram forms.

British Journal of Audiology: 23, 265-266

British Society of Audiology 'Recommended procedures' is available for a small cost from:

BSA Secretariat, 80 Brighton Road, Reading RG6 1PS

The British Society of Audiology (2004) recommended procedures for pure tone air and bone conduction threshold audiometry with and without masking and determination of uncomfortable loudness levels are available for download at <http://www.thebsa.org.uk/docs/bsapta.doc>