The Tinnitus Ototoxicity Monitoring Interview (TOMI)

The TOMI was developed as a clinical tool to detect tinnitus onset or changes in the tinnitus percept during treatment with potentially ototoxic drugs. Portions of the TOMI were adapted from the TRT Initial Interview (Henry et al., 2003). The TOMI is a one-page instrument that can be completed normally within about 5 minutes. Ideally, the TOMI should be administered by an audiologist or ear, nose and throat (ENT) physician. Because it is fully scripted, the TOMI can also be administered by a nurse or other health care professional who may not be familiar with clinical tinnitus issues, in which case the patient’s responses should be reviewed by an audiologist or ENT physician.


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You are being treated with a medication that has the potential to affect the auditory system. One possible effect is tinnitus, which is ringing, humming, buzzing or other noises in your ears or head. Almost everyone hears noises in the ears or head that are brief and fade away—these sounds are normal. I am going to ask you about persistent tinnitus that lasts at least 5 minutes, and occurs at least twice a week.

1. [Clinician: ask only at first visit] Did you have persistent tinnitus before the start of treatment? □ No □ Yes
   1a. IF YES: How long have you had tinnitus? □ Less than 1 year □ 1-2 years □ 3-5 years □ 6-10 years □ 11-20 years □ More than 20 years □ Not sure

2. Have you noticed any persistent tinnitus since you started the treatment? □ No □ Yes
   IF NO: The interview is complete. No further questions are required.
   IF YES:

3. What does your tinnitus sound like? (mark all that apply) □ Ringing □ Hissing □ Buzzing □ Sizzling □ Crickets □ Whistle □ Hum □ Other: _________________

4. Does your tinnitus have a pulsing quality to it? □ No □ Yes

5. Where is your tinnitus located? □ Left ear only □ Right ear only □ Both ears □ Inside head □ Other (describe) ____________________________________________

6. Is your tinnitus louder on one side of your head than the other? □ Right louder than left □ Left louder than right □ Equal

7. How loud is your tinnitus on average? □ Not loud at all □ Slightly loud □ Moderately loud □ Very loud □ Extremely loud

8. How much of the time do you think your tinnitus is present? □ Occasionally □ Some of the time □ Most of the time □ Always

   [Clinician: Ask the following questions only if the patient: (1) had tinnitus before the start of treatment, or (2) reported tinnitus previously with this TOMI. The objective is to determine if the patient’s tinnitus is being affected by the drug treatment. If the patient has previously responded to this interview, each response should reflect the period of time since the last interview. Otherwise, each response reflects the period of time since before the start of treatment.]

10. Has the sound of your tinnitus changed? □ No □ Yes □ Not sure
    IF YES: How is it different? ____________________________________________

11. Has the location of your tinnitus changed? □ No □ Yes □ Not sure
    IF YES: How is it different? ____________________________________________

12. Has the loudness of your tinnitus changed? □ No □ Yes, louder now □ Yes, quieter now □ Not sure

13. Has the amount of time your tinnitus is present changed? □ No □ Yes, more often □ Yes, less often □ Not sure