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## **Noise exposure and hyperacusis**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Hyperacusis is reduced tolerance for sounds which is often seen as a precursor for tinnitus. Reduced uncomfortable loudness levels are characteristic of hyperacusis. It has been thought that occupational noise exposure does not usually result in hyperacusis but tinnitus has been reported as ranging in various studies from 5.9 % to 87.5 % of noise exposed workers. The notion of noise sensitivity and annoyance in relation to noise has been studied extensively but the extent of hyperacusis in noise sensitive subjects has not been examined. This paper will examine the relationship between noise and stress behavior in order to elucidate further stress induced auditory hyper-sensitivity. Possible mechanisms of noise-induced hyperacusis will be considered.