

## **AUDITORY AND VISUAL ATTENTION PROCESS TRAINING FOR TINNITUS TREATMENT**

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It is hypothesized that abnormal attention and auditory scene analysis determines the severity of tinnitus, and the incongruence between tinnitus and normal auditory perception is responsible for its resistance to traditional sound based habituation therapies. Sensory gating of auditory evoked potentials will be used as indices of early auditory selection to identify deficits in attention in tinnitus sufferers. New methods of treatment using auditory and visual attention process training (AVAPT) will be implemented in groups of tinnitus sufferers. Attention training has been demonstrated to improve subjects ability to attend to relevant sounds while ignoring distracters. The main aim of the study is to determine the effectiveness of excitatory, inhibitory, auditory and visual distracters in training persons with tinnitus to not perceive tinnitus. It is believed that this training will result in permanent reduction in tinnitus through a process of learning-related plasticity. This is the first study that we are aware of that researches sensory gating in tinnitus and uses auditory and visual attention process training installed on handheld computers.