

# Labor market effects of rehabilitation for patients diagnosed with dizziness – a Danish nationwide register-based cohort study

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**Background:** Both vestibular neuronitis (VN) and meniere's disease (MD) have great impact on quality of life and are associated to a significant number of days with sick leave. The aim was to assess the labor market participation rate one year after diagnosis and the use of rehabilitation measures in a nationwide cohort study.

**Study design:** Nationwide cohort study including patients with VN (n=1.341) and 1:5 age and gender matched control persons (n=6.683) and also MD patients (n=843) and 1:5 matched control persons (n=4.209) from 2013-2017.

**Results:** Compared to control persons, VN patients are more likely to be single, have higher income and, a higher Charlson index. MD patients have higher level of education and a higher Charlson index compared to control persons.

There was no difference in labor market participation rate one year after a VN diagnosis (p-value=0.88). However, MD patients were 10.7% less likely to possess a full-time job one year after diagnosis compared to matched controls (58.1±0.49% vs 68.5±0.46%, p-value<0.001). MD patients consult otorhinolaryngologists (ORL), general practitioners (GP), psychologists, and physiotherapists more than control persons both before and after diagnosis (p<0.01). VN patients consult ORL, GP, and physiotherapists more than controls before and after diagnosis (p<0.01).

**Conclusion:** MD increases the risk of leaving labor market. Both MD and VN are associated with great expenses to the Danish health care system in use of public rehabilitation and medical consultations. Future research should assess the effect of faster diagnostics and focus on rehabilitation measures.