

Case History B1 (page 1 of 2)

Person

Mr. B

Age

55

Pre-exposure health status

Good

Health history

Surgery 4 times for benign prostatic hypertrophy, once for hand injury

Previous noise exposure

Diesel fishing boat from childhood

Time to onset of symptoms

Immediate with progression

	Pre-exposure	During exposure*	Post-exposure**
Sleep	Good	Delayed onset and repeated awakenings; prescribed sleep aid.	Resolved
Headache	Rare, mild	Continuous, head and ears “sizzling.” “It got in your head and would dang well stay there.” Started “at back of head, then down sides, then affected right eye.” Prescription and non-prescription analgesics minimally helpful.	At baseline
Cognition	Normal	“Trouble remembering”; “a little problem concentrating” blamed on sleep deprivation	“Pretty good, a little problem still.”
Mood	Good	Stress, “lots, pretty near more’n I could take, it just burnt me, the noise and run-around”; prescribed anxiolytic.	Improved, still takes some anxiolytic.
Balance/ equilibrium	Normal, never seasick or carsick, no vertigo.	Wobbly, staggering, off-balance “like had drunk.” No falls. Occasionally felt dizzy.	Resolved, on roof shingling without problems.
Ear/hearing	Normal hearing on left and mild sensorineural loss at 4 kHz on right in 2006. Intermittent left tinnitus since 2005.	Tinnitus continuous and bothersome, “ringing and sizzling,” and interfering with conversation comprehension. Ears popped “like an airplane.” Ear wax increased.	Resolved

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	Pre-exposure	During exposure*	Post-exposure**
Eye/vision	Normal with reading glasses	Intermittent right eye pain “like a force on it, like pressure on the eye, the inside part, in the head.” No change in vision. Eye pain/pressure synchronous with headache.	Resolved
Other neurological	Normal, no concussion	No change	No change
Cardiovascular	Normal with BP 126/82, 126/88, 112/70 in 2006	Mild BP elevation 140/80, 132/90, 152/92. After started anxiolytic, BP 128/84.	Resolved, BP 110/68
Gastrointestinal	Normal, no GER, not prone to nausea	Frequent nausea	Resolved
Respiratory	Slight asthma as child. Never smoked.	Two episodes of feeling of weight on chest while lying on couch, which resolved when he stood up. Lower respiratory infection in 5th month of exposure.	Normal
Rheumatologic	Osteoarthritis	No change	No change
Other	Little road traffic or other noise	“That stuff [turbine noise] doesn’t get out of your head, it gets in there and just sits there—it’s horrible.”	Not bothered by “all kinds of traffic” at new location; “after a while you don’t hear it.”
		Felt pulsation in ears and chest while outside when there was fog in the valley between the turbines and the house.	Resolved
		Spent more time at shore at boat, away from house and property, for symptom relief.	
		Hum heard and felt in double glazed picture window when turbines running.	

*Exposure period 5 months.

**Interviewed 6 weeks after move.