**Menière’s disease: Is Magnetic Resonance Imaging the new gold standard in diagnostics?**

Konrad Schwager, MD

Professor and Chairman

Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

Erich Hofmann, MD

Professor and Chairman

Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology

Klinikum Fulda gAG

Pacelliallee 4, 36043 Fulda

Germany

**Philipps University of Marburg - Campus Fulda**

Menière’s disease (MD) is defined as a syndrome of spontaneous, recurrent attacks of rotational vertigo, sensorineural hearing loss, and tinnitus, accompanied by fullness in the affected ear. However, the complete clinical picture is not expressed in all patients. Terms such as “atypical MD,” “monosymptomatic MD,” etc., illustrate the diagnostic dilemma. Differential diagnosis of entities with similar symptoms, i.e. vestibular migraine, is sometimes difficult. In 2015 the classification committee of the Bárány Society published a consensus paper and developed criteria for the definition of Menière’s disease as “definite MD” and “probable MD.” These definitions still follow clinical symptoms. Endolymphatic hydrops is recognized as the cause of the disease, but this is based on postmortem studies. Since 2005 MR imaging provides the possibility by i.v. or intratympanic application of gadolinium to demonstrate a morphologic correlate of the inner ear hydrops. Recent publications support the notion that MR imaging is getting to be a major diagnostic tool in MD. It seems to be evident that MR imaging is gaining a most important role in diagnostics regarding the full syndromic picture as well as the partial expression of symptoms in early development of the disease.