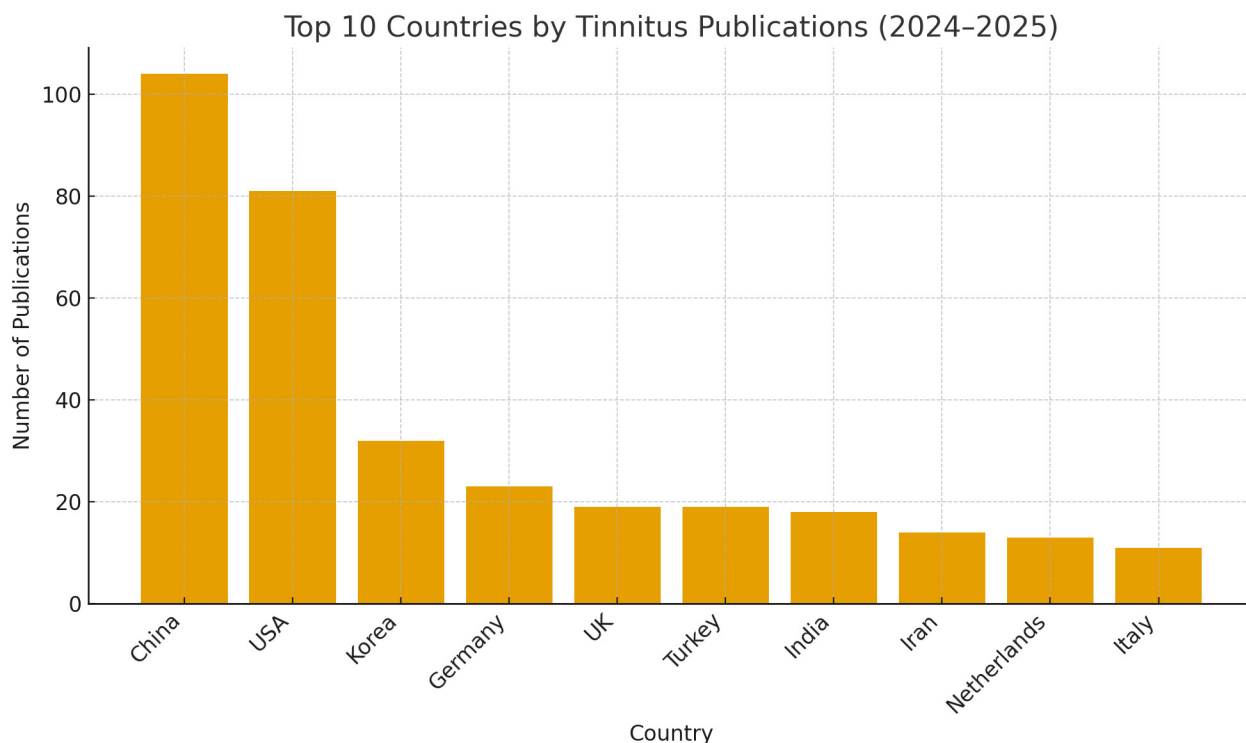


Global Patterns in Tinnitus Research 2025

Understanding where tinnitus research is produced and what topics dominate offer insight into global trends, emerging priorities, and the scientific capacity of different regions. This analysis examines all tinnitus studies published between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025 with “tinnitus” in the title and an English-language abstract.

A total of 502 articles were identified. Of these, 446 met the eligibility criteria for geographic analysis. Among the 446 eligible studies, the geographic distribution of publications was uneven. As shown in the bar diagram below, China represented the largest proportion of the literature ($n = 104$, 23.3 percent) followed by the United States ($n = 81$, 18.2 percent). The Republic of Korea contributed 32 publications (7.2 percent) and Germany contributed 23 (5.2 percent). A second tier of contributors consisted of the United Kingdom and Turkey (each $n = 19$, 4.3 percent), India ($n = 18$, 4.0 percent), Iran ($n = 14$, 3.1 percent), and the Netherlands ($n = 13$, 2.9 percent). Italy and New Zealand each produced 11 publications (2.5 percent). The remaining countries individually accounted for fewer than two percent of the evidence base.



Where Tinnitus Research Is Published in 2025?

Analysis of publication outlets showed that tinnitus research was concentrated within a relatively small group of journals. Hearing Research published the largest number of eligible studies (21 articles, 4.4 percent of the dataset), followed by European Archives of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (19 articles, 4.0 percent), Journal of Clinical Medicine (17 articles, 3.5 percent), and The Laryngoscope (16 articles, 3.3 percent). Additional core outlets included the Indian Journal of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery and the International Journal of Audiology (each 15 articles, 3.1 percent), Otology & Neurotology (14 articles, 2.9 percent), Frontiers in Neuroscience and PLOS ONE (each 12 articles, 2.5 percent), and Frontiers in Neurology (11 articles, 2.3 percent). Three further journals each contributed 10 eligible articles: Cureus, Scientific Reports, and Seminars in Hearing (all 2.1 percent). Beyond these core outlets, the remaining journals published fewer than ten articles each, indicating that tinnitus research disperses widely once the central publication group is exceeded.

“HOW WE CONDUCTED THIS ANNUAL REVIEW”

A PubMed search was performed on 18 November 2025 using the term “tinnitus” in the title, covering publications from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. The search identified 502 records. After removing non-eligible items (studies without abstracts, non-English abstracts, and editorials without data), 446 studies met the inclusion criteria, which required an English abstract, the presence of the word “tinnitus” in the title, publication within the 12-month period, and classification as a peer-reviewed scientific article. Bibliographic data were extracted from MEDLINE files using hierarchical tagging to ensure accurate capture of titles, abstracts, authors, affiliations, journal data, publication type, language and date. Country assignment was based on the first author’s affiliation; when the country was not stated, city and institution names were used to infer location, followed by manual verification which corrected approximately twenty ambiguous cases. These 446 eligible studies were used for all bibliometric, geographic, thematic and domain-level analyses. Each study was assigned to a primary thematic category derived from its title to allow country-level comparisons, and a broader domain-level synthesis was carried out using both titles and abstracts to map key scientific trends. All procedures, extraction rules and coding frameworks were fully documented to ensure transparency and reproducibility, and interested readers may contact the *Hashir International Institute* for access to the complete methodological documentation or dataset.

Global thematic distribution of tinnitus research

Analysis of the tinnitus publications worldwide revealed a diverse spread of scientific activity across six research themes, with clear areas of concentration. The largest category was epidemiology and population studies (146 of 446, 32.7 percent), reflecting a substantial global interest in understanding tinnitus through large-scale observational datasets and examining associations with lifestyle, systemic disease, sleep, psychological factors, noise exposure, military service, and COVID-19. The second largest theme was clinical interventions and treatment approaches (132 of 446, 29.6 percent), indicating sustained international efforts to evaluate therapeutic strategies that can have positive impact on the life of people experiencing distressing tinnitus including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), digital and internet-based CBT, hearing aids and cochlear implants, tailored sound therapies, neuromodulation, pharmacotherapy, acupuncture, and other multimodal treatments.

“IN 2025, GLOBAL TINNITUS RESEARCH CENTRED ON EPIDEMIOLOGY AND TREATMENTS, WITH THE REMAINDER SPREAD ACROSS STRUCTURAL, NEURAL, MEASUREMENT, AND BASIC SCIENCE AREAS.”

Pulsatile, venous and structural tinnitus represented 12.3 percent of publications (55 of 446), highlighting structural vascular mechanisms as a major global research area, particularly involving venous sinus stenosis, jugular bulb anomalies, dural arteriovenous fistulas, and surgical or endovascular correction.

Brain and neural mechanisms (46 of 446, 10.3 percent) formed a substantial body of research focused on alterations in brain connectivity, neural oscillations, neurochemistry, and regional microstructural differences. A further 49 studies (11.0 percent) were classified under measurement, prediction and methods, encompassing work on tinnitus questionnaires, psychometric validation, prediction models, machine learning, consensus processes, diagnostic pathways, and bibliometric mapping. Finally, basic auditory, animal and cellular models comprised the smallest category globally (18 of 446, 4.0 percent), indicating a lower relative volume of preclinical mechanistic research compared with clinical and population-based work.

Taken together, the thematic distribution suggests that contemporary tinnitus research worldwide in 2025 was primarily driven by understanding epidemiological risk patterns and comorbidity profiles and evaluating treatment approaches, while structural venous pathology and neural mechanisms represent important but more specialised scientific domains. Each theme will be discussed in detail in this report.