Suggested Process for the Management of SSNHL

Sudden Hearing Loss Support

Patient identified with SSNHL

Assesment by ENT:
- Examination
- Medical history
- Medication history
- Pure tone audiogram (hearing test)

Baseline Investigations:
Blood tests - checking for an underlying cause of SSNHL

Underlying cause found

Treat underlying cause

No underlying cause found or suspected

"Idiopathic" (cause unknown) **sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSNHL)**

Imaging: MRI scan
Note: If MRI scan is not possible (e.g. due to a health condition) a CT scan or Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test should be considered

Possible underlying cause identified

Refer for neuro-otology assessment

Patient unable to take steroids orally

Consider intratympanic (IT) steroid therapy
(injection of steroid into middle ear)

No improvement in hearing or IT therapy declined by patient

Oral Steroid treatment administered

Review in 10-14 days with pure tone audiogram (hearing test)

No improvement in hearing

Improvement or partial improvement in hearing

Explore amplification options e.g. hearing aids/implants, if appropriate