

# Abstract

Absolute pitch (AP) is the rare ability to identify or produce the pitch of a tone without the use of external reference (Levitin & Rogers, 2005; Takeuchi & Hulse, 1993). In this study, we analyzed retrieval data of another study “Is it impossible to acquire absolute pitch in adulthood?” about adult AP learning (Wong, Lui, Yip & Wong, 2019) and investigated how musical experiences affect AP learning. Pre-training and post-training data of 17 non-musicians, 20 musicians who played Fixed-Pitch Instrument and 6 musicians who played non-Fixed-Pitch Instrument were analyzed. From the results, we found that musicians who primarily play Fixed-Pitch Instruments show initial advantages in their AP ability while the musicians who primarily play non-Fixed-Pitch Instruments show better overall improvement after the learning program. In addition, we also observed a difference within the nFPI group between violinist and guitarist. Violinists improved more than guitarists in terms of pitch accuracy and average pitch errors. Results illustrated that factors like fixed-pitch nature of an instrument, frequency of tuning an instrument and practice of intonation will all affect AP learning in adults.