Long-term Findings from the NIDCD/VA Hearing Aid Clinical Trial
Hearing Aid Usage in CSP-418A

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Hearing Aid Status Questionnaire (HASQ)

- Designed to elicit hearing aid history and pattern of usage information from subjects.

- Series of questions asking the participants to rate the importance different factors played in their hearing aid use decisions.
HASQ, cont.

Four areas of inquiry

• Did Ss get new hearing aids since initial study?
• How much and in what situations did Ss use their hearing aids?
• How much difficulty did the Ss experience in various listening situations, with or without h/a’s?
• For those who reported they seldom used or had stopped using their hearing aids altogether, what factors influenced their decision?
Hearing Aid Use

• 42.5% of participants had obtained new hearing instruments since the initial study (82/193).

• 54.9% of participants reported using original study aids (90/164).

  78.5% of participants using original study aids were still using the originally preferred circuit.
Reason for hearing aid change

• Subjects were presented with 26 factors
  • Items such as: “difficulty understanding speech in noise”, “advice of a friend”, “assumed superiority of digital instruments”, “cost of repairs” were presented for rating.
  • Each factor was rated on a 6-pt scale ranging from “Not important” to “Extremely important” regarding its role in their decision.
Reason for Change of Hearing Aid

Hearing Professional
Speech N
Speech D+N
Speech D+Q
Certain speakers
Speech in general
Power need
Speech Q
Poor quality speech others
Poor sound quality

N=82

Percent indicating moderate or greater importance
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Satisfaction with Change

Degree of Satisfaction:
- Not at all
- A little
- Moderately
- Very
- Extremely

Percent of Respondents:
- Very: Highest satisfaction
- A little: Moderate satisfaction
- Not at all: Lowest satisfaction
Instrument Use Pattern

- HASQ (N=179)
- SADL (N=160)

The graph shows the distribution of reported use hours per day among participants, categorized into different intervals:

- Never
- <1hr
- 1 - 4 hrs
- 4 - 8 hrs
- >8hrs

The percentage of reported use is indicated for each category.
Situational Hearing Aid Use

• In quiet with one person
• In quiet with several people
• In noisy situations
• With television or radio
• In the car
• On the telephone
Situational Hearing Aid Use

Percentage of subjects reporting

Specified Situation

Radio/TV
Quiet w/ Several
Quiet w/ 1
In car
Noisy
Telephone

Half time or more use
Less than half time use

N=151
Current Problems

Percentage reporting moderate or greater rating of problem

Speech D+N
Speech N
Certain talkers
Speech D+Q
Speech in general
Loudness discomfort
Poor quality loud sound
Sound quality speech others
Poor quality music
Feedback

N=181
Reasons for seldom or not using hearing aids

- Speech D+N
- Speech N
- Certain talkers
- Not enough difference
- Loudness discomfort
- Inconvenience
- Whistling (feedback)
- Sound quality general
- Sound quality loud
- Sound quality speech others

Percent responding factor was moderately or more important in decision

N=44
Hearing Aid Usage

The same factors appear to influence the study participants’ decision whether or not to use the hearing aid, or to obtain new hearing aids. The same factors also appear to pose the greatest challenges to the majority of hearing aid users in their everyday lives.

The most prominent of these factors are:

- *Understanding speech in noise*
- *Understanding speech at a distance in quiet or in noise*
- *Understanding the speech of certain talkers*
- *Understanding speech in general*
Hearing Aid Usage, cont.

- More than half of the original instruments were still in use 6-7 years after completion of the original study.

- In spite of the difficulties encountered, the majority of the participants used their instruments more than half the time in all of the situations presented, including in noise.