

## **Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007**

### **BAHA in children, audiological results**

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The BAHA is the most effective bone-conduction device that is on the market. Owing to the successful application in adults, the BAHA is used more and more in children. Literature review shows that results in children are comparable to those in adults.

Special attention will be paid to two rather new applications, namely the BAHA for children with unilateral conductive hearing loss (UCL, n=18) and conventional transcutaneous application of the BAHA in children who are too young for implantation (BAHA Softband, n=10).

Results in children with UCL were ambiguous. Achieved binaural advantage was poorer than that found in adults. However, most adults had acquired UCL while the children had congenital UCL. This might have played a role. Questionnaires showed that most parents were satisfied with the results.

Longitudinal research showed that the BAHA Softband worked as effectively as conventional transcutaneous bone-conductors. However, the softband is more convenient to use than a steel headband and the microphone is in the same housing as the transducer, thus not positioned contralaterally, as in most conventional bone conductors.

Conclusion: For congenital UCL it is not yet clear who will profit from a BAHA and who won't. Nevertheless, subjective reports are encouraging.

The BAHA Softband is an effective hearing solution for children awaiting surgery

