

Abstract EFAS/DGA 2007

Life quality of the adults underwent cochlear implantation

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Objective: Profound deafness is an impairment which affects individual's physical, social and psychological aspects. Cochlear implantation is a rehabilitative procedure, which is used for the eligible candidates chosen from profound deaf population. The objective results of cochlear implantation can be evaluated by using various test methods. Other than these objective evaluations, subjective benefits, which are reported by the patients, are highly important in the outcome of cochlear implantation. Our aim was to assess the effect of cochlear implantation (CI) on the quality of life in deaf adults.

Methods: In this study, to assess the effect of the use of cochlear implants (CI) on the health status of postlingually deaf adults to evaluate the quality of life, a questionnaire was applied for adults with implanted in our department. Their physical, social and psychological experiences, before and after implantation, are evaluated and the results were analyzed statistically.

Results: In result, cochlear implantation in adults were significantly satisfied. Moreover, the behaviors, such as self-confidence, relationships with other people, emotional condition and concentration, of the adults after implantation were significantly different than before implantation.

Discussion: Cochlear implants were associated with statistically significant improvement in quality of life in postlingually deafened adults. The improvements were largest in the categories concerning communication, feelings of being a burden, isolation, and relations to friends and family. The implants also improved the relatives' daily lives. There was a statistically significant reduction in degree of depression and anxiety. Reduction in anxiety and depression was associated with gain in quality of life.

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8th Congress of the European Federation of Audiological Societies EFAS
10th Annual Congress of the German Society of Audiology DGA
Heidelberg, 06 – 09 June 2007

FP09 Cochlear Implants 5: Sp
07. Jun. 07
Session 15:30 - 17:00