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Language development in profoundly deaf children with and without cochlear implants

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Most children born with profound deafness develop language abilities at approximately half the rate of their peers with normal hearing. They fall significantly behind in the acquisition of oral language. Previous research indicates that when deaf children receive cochlear implants (CI) they can gain access to a substantial amount of auditory information which allows them to develop language skills more rapidly than their no implanted peers. The objective of this preliminary study was to evaluate the benefits of cochlear implantation in infancy and compare them to those obtained in children implanted at older age and those obtained in profoundly deaf children no implanted. The participants were profoundly deaf children: deaf children who received a C.I. prior to 2 years of age, deaf children who were implanted at an older age; and deaf children no implanted with similar ages to the implanted ones at the moment of the language assessment. Children's language development was assessed using the Illinois Test of Psycholinguistic Abilities (ITPA; Kirk, McCarthy & Kirk, 1996). The discussion will be focused on the gap between language age and chronological age in the different groups of participants.

Literatur:

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