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Speech development in children after cochlear implantation

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Abstract

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We evaluated the long-term speech intelligibility of young deaf children after cochlear implantation (CI). A prospective study on 47 consecutively implanted deaf children with up to 5 years cochlear implant use was performed. The study was conducted at a pediatric tertiary referral center for CI. All children in the study were deaf prelingually. They each receive implant before the program of auditory verbal therapy. A speech intelligibility rating scale evaluated the spontaneous speech of each child before and at frequent interval for 5 years after implantation. After cochlear implantation, the difference between the speech intelligibility, rating increased significantly each year for 3 years ($P < 0.05$). For the first year, the average rating remained "prerecognizable words" or "unintelligible speech". After 2 year of implantation the children had intelligible speech if someone concentrates and lip-reads (category 3). At the 4- and 5-year interval, 71.5 and 78% of children had intelligible speech to all listeners (category 5), respectively. So, 5 years after rehabilitation mode and median of speech intelligibility rating was five. Congenital and prelingually deaf children gradually develop intelligible speech that does not plateau 5 years after implantation. © 2007 Springer-Verlag.

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Author keywords

Cochlear implantation; Deafness/surgery; Speech intelligibility; Treatment outcome

Indexed Keywords

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