

Summary

(M01P)

Use of State-of-Art Technology in the Fitting of Digital Hearing Aids in Persons with Severe and Profound Hearing Loss

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Adaptability in the use of communication strategies among individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing has been shown to be an important asset in upward mobility on the job (Foster & MacLeod, 2003). As a strategy, some students choose to optimize their residual hearing with digital hearing aids for both classroom and professional settings. Exact measurements must be made to ensure optimal benefit. Also, there is a need to establish if digital hearing aids are indeed beneficial to individuals with severe and profound hearing loss.

Important new technology, e.g. Verifit®. and NOAH®, allow for precise measurement of hearing aid performance in an individual's ear. This poster session will show how these tools are used to make measurements of hearing aid performance in the ear for the following stimuli: quiet, average and loud speech; high level noise; and music. All performance measures can be viewed in the context of target prescriptions that can be seen by the user on a computer screen. The adequacy of the hearing aid's performance can also be viewed to allow for better understanding of the capabilities and the limitations of the devices.

Case studies and data from individuals (n=10) who reported enhanced performance in educational and professional settings will be shared.

References

Foster, S. and MacLeod, J. (2003). Deaf people at work:

assessment of communication among deaf and hearing persons at work. *International Journal of Audiology*: 42, S128-S139.