

Abstract

Title: Quality of life in adult users of cochlear implant before and after the implantation

Objectives: The aim of the study was to determine the degree of life satisfaction with a cochlear implant (CI) in postlingually deaf people, who lost their hearing after acquiring speech skills – i.e. after the 7th year of life.

Methods: The research was realized by its own anonymous semi-structured survey, which contained 31 questions in total. Then the survey was provided through a website and sent out using e-mail addresses, with a total of 29 adult respondents completing it.

Results: The predominant majority (52 %) of respondents agreed, that CI provided them with the same or better benefit, than they themselves expected. At the same time, they assessed the hearing and understanding in each area with a score of 2 – so that, there was improvement in all areas. The predominant majority of respondents did not need more time to think about implantation and also get together good or rather good feelings from hearing at the first setup. Regular sports respondents stated that they had performed the same sport before implantation. With regard to the epidemiological situation, an overwhelming majority (93 %) respondents stated, that get together a decrease of understanding by others people, who are using a mask. However, all respondents stated that they would only recommend CI.

Conclusion: The results of the survey suggest an improvement in the quality of life of CI users. However, it does not mean that all problems suddenly disappear after implantation. Implantation conveys sound perceptions that can be heard again by the deaf. Still, this requires long-term and regular rehabilitation, which allows respondents to make the best use of the hearing implant. Thanks to CI, respondents feel less isolated and they are able to return to the hearing society.

Keywords: hearing impairment, life satisfaction, socialization, sport