

Hearing aids provide clear benefit for elderly users – results from a large-scale study.

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As part of a large scale project to improve clinical guidelines in Denmark a large cohort of primarily elderly people with hearing loss were invited to participate in the project. 30 % were experienced users and 70 % new users. The subjects submitted SSQ-12 and 15-D prior to their first visit where an audiological assessment was made. At the second visit hearing aids were fitted. 3 months later the same set of questionnaires were sent prior to the third visit. At the third visit Real Ear measurements were made to document the fitting. If fine-tuning of the fitting was required it was performed and new measurements made.

Approximately 600 patients were fitted with two different line of hearing aids from GN Resound and the appropriate form factor for each patient selected. The outcomes are expressed in two ways: The change in the 15-D QoL results and the change in SSQ-12 results. Furthermore, the use time per day was assessed both subjectively and by means of the data logging function in the hearing aids.

Overall, the data shows that on average both participant group experienced some increase in QoL and an improvement in hearing ability as expressed by SSQ-12. The gain was higher for new users. The use time varied a lot across participants and the accuracy of the self-assessment was quite good.

The total group can be split in several subgroups according to the outcomes and various objective parameters and this analysis will be presented.

The results reported are from the BEAR project that is supported by the Danish Innovation Foundation, William Demant, Widex and GN Hearing

Podium only

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