

PROTOCOL FOR HEARING AID TRIAL AND ASSESSMENT OF BENEFIT IN ADULTS

I. OTOSCOPY

Otoscopy is imperative prior to taking impression of earmolds and may be done by audiologist/ otolaryngologist.

II. DETAILED CASE-HISTORY INCLUSIVE OF

- Personal history
- Medical history
- Otological history
- Amplification history

(A proforma to be made for the same)

III. ASSESSMENTS

- Pure tone audiometry in a sound field set-up using a calibrated audiometer.
- Speech recognition threshold (SRT)
- Word recognition score (WRS) at 40 dB SL or at the upper limit of MCL.
- Uncomfortable loudness level (UCL) for speech
- UCL for narrow band noises (at least 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz , 4000 Hz)
- Immittance testing if indicated on otoscopy or history.
- Administering the lifestyle portfolio to get a clear idea about the effect of hearing loss on everyday life situations in order to facilitate customized services to the client.

IV. Pre-fitting Counseling: Client must be explained clearly regarding

- What do assessments indicate
- Implications of these findings in their life
- Types of amplification options considering their audiological requirements, age, personal and professional needs, lifestyle, budget etc.

V. Earmold impressions to be taken.

VI. SELECTION OF HEARING AID:

- Programming the preselected hearing aid using the programming software taking into consideration the patient needs and the electroacoustic characteristics of the hearing aids.

- Aided SRT
- Aided WRS at 50 dB HL.
- Aided UCL
- Subjective or perceptual benefit in client's words to be elicited.
- Questionnaire (CCQ) for systematic documentation of perceptual benefit from the hearing aid (after one month of regular hearing aid use)
- Testing the aided speech perception in presence of noise using recorded material (TO BE DEVELOPED UNDER MISHA)
- In-situ Real ear measurements are desirable in selection of hearing aids that have a provision for the same within the hearing aid itself.

(NOTE: ALL SPEECH TESTS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED USING STANDARD MATERIAL.
RECORDED TESTS ARE DESIRABLE WHENEVER AVAILABLE/POSSIBLE)

VII. Post fitting counseling about

- How to use the device
- Care and maintenance
- Importance of follow-up visits

VIII. Consent form to be taken from the patient and report to be given.

MISHA