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The analysis of different factors affecting the quality of life in people with profound postlingual sensorineural hearing loss using cochlear implants

Summary

Introduction

Using the cochlear implant allows you to hear again, and after implementing the principles of the listening training, to understand the speech based on auditory perception. However, the assessment of therapy results based only on the results of medical research is not sufficient. Currently, the measure of treatment success is the degree of satisfaction of the patient, which can be defined as the quality of life. In medicine, the issue of quality of life appeared only in the twentieth century, in connection with the development by the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of health, which means not only lack of disease, but physical, mental and social well-being. From that time, the subjective feelings of the sick person were also taken into account so the information acquired from him would allow the implementation of an optimal treatment program. Objective, traditionally used indicators (results of medical research) are characterized by one-dimensionality because they only inform about the disease process and do not reflect the impact of the disease on patient's well-being, while the subjective view expressed through the quality of life enables multidimensional, and therefore more complete assessment. People experiencing deep sensorineural hearing loss acquired after mastering the language system suffer not only in the sphere of improper functioning of the auditory system but also in the psychological and social sphere (lower self-esteem, depression, social isolation) The sooner we take it into account the faster we give to people better quality of life experience. In this case, the study of quality of life will show whether and how the treatment (cochlear implant) affected the psychological and social sphere of life, and also allow to identify factors that can affect the quality of life achieved

Aim

The aim of the dissertation was to assess the change in the quality of life in adults with postlingually hearing loss after using a cochlear implant. Another equivalent goal was to analyze the impact of various factors on the magnitude of change in quality of life after using a cochlear implant among these people..

Material and method

104 patients of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing participated in the study. Everyone gave his or her conscious and voluntary consent to participate in the study. Participants of the study are adults diagnosed with bilateral hearing loss of over 81 dB HL and named according to the WHO classification - deep sensorineural hearing loss. At each participant, the hearing loss began after the speech and language development process. Each person in the course of a multidisciplinary diagnosis was qualified for treatment using a cochlear implant. The following questionnaires were used to accomplish the research objectives: Assessment of Quality of Life (AQoL-D8), Abbreviated Profile of Hearing Aid Benefit (APHAB), Questionnaire of Perceived Social Support, Inventory for Measuring Coping with (Mini-COPE). Speech audiometry in noise and an information survey were also used.

The study was composed of two stages. The first one took place during diagnostic hospitalization qualifying for treatment with the cochlear implantation method. The second stage took place after implantation of the cochlear implant - from 8 months to 3 years from the moment of connecting the speech processor.

Results

Based on research, conclusions were formulated.

1. After using the cochlear implant in all examined adults with postlingually hearing loss the quality of life improves significantly.
2. The increase in the quality of life after the use of the cochlear implant in the examined adults with postlingually hearing loss is supported by the subjectively assessed improvement in auditory perception.
3. The increase in the quality of life after the use of the cochlear implant in the examined adults with postlingually hearing loss is favored by some coping strategies, such as acceptance, positive re-evaluation, and seeking social support
4. Information on the impact of various factors on the change in the quality of life after the use of a cochlear implant in adults with postlingually hearing loss should be taken into account in the process of qualifying patients for the implantation of a cochlear implant