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Benefits of a new fitting formula for patients using bimodal stimulation.

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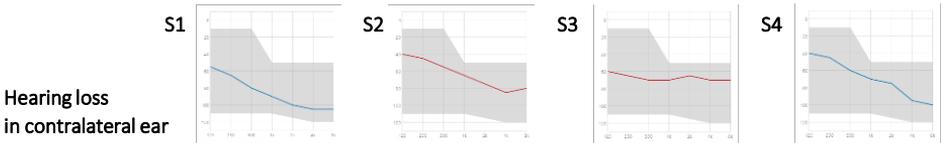
INTRODUCTION: the Naida Bimodal Hearing Solution offers two devices that work together to optimize hearing. The Adaptive Phonak Digital (APD) bimodal fitting formula has been designed to align the acoustic signal from the hearing aid toward the electric stimulation provided by the Cochlear Implant (CI). The UltraZoom improve speech understanding in noise, and the QuickSync improve ease of use for patients using two devices.

OBJECTIVE: This study aimed to investigate: 1) the benefits of the APD bimodal fitting formula and UltraZoom, 2) the ease of use of QuickSync for patients using bimodal stimulation.

MATERIAL AND METHOD: 4 adults who use AB Naida CI Q70 sound processors on one ear and hearing aid in opposite ear participated in this study. They all were experienced hearing aids users and had a minimum of 3 months using CI.

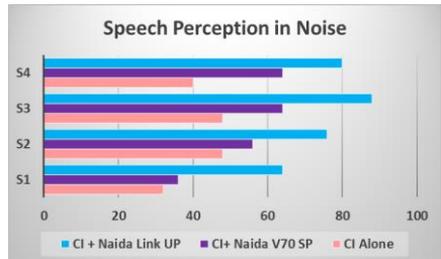
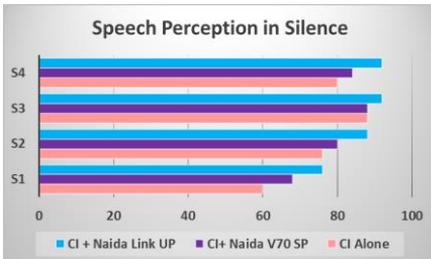
The performance in speech perception was measured using CI alone and bimodal stimulation, in silence (omnidirectional microphones) and in background noise (UltraZoom).

In bimodal hearing 2 hearing aids were compared, the Naida V70 SP (NAL-NL1), and the Naida Link UP (APD). Also, 4 measures were assessed through a rating scale (from -5, much worst, to 5, much better): ease of use, general hearing, speech perception in noise and comfort.

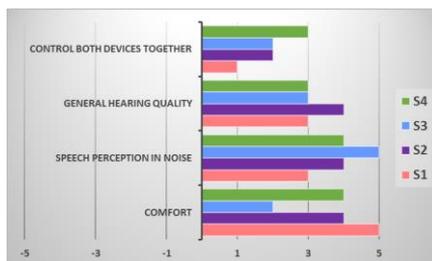


RESULTS:

1) **PERFORMANCE IN SPEECH PERCEPTION:** There is a clear tendency to better results in speech perception using CI + Naida Link UP in background noise situation.



2) **RATING SCALE:** All patients tend to rank better using CI + Naida Link UP compared using CI + Naida V70 SP for all measures that they were asked, specially speech perception in noise and comfort.



CONCLUSIONS: Due to the results observed, we believe that the new APD fitting formula and the UltraZoom added to the ease of use giving by the QuickSync, make the Phonak Naida Link hearing aid an effective solution for the contralateral ear of patients using Naida Q70 CI sound processors.