

MEASUREMENT OF SATISFACTION WITH AMPLIFICATION IN DAILY LIFE

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In the current health care climate it is important to be able to document the efficacy of hearing aid provision. Further, maintenance of excellence in clinical practice requires regular monitoring of patient's perceptions of products and services.

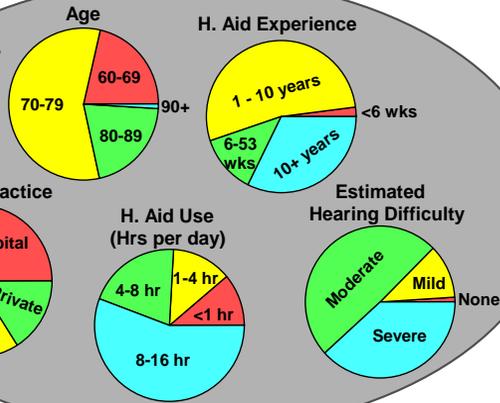
Standardized self-assessment instruments that can measure reduction of handicap and reduction of disability resulting from use of amplification have come into fairly wide use for these purposes. However, neither type of instrument addresses the global satisfaction of the hearing aid wearer with the amplification device. **In the long run, global satisfaction is probably the variable most closely related to the success of a hearing aid fitting from the patient's point of view.**

In this poster, we present the results of a series of studies designed to develop a self-assessment instrument for clinical measurement of hearing aid satisfaction in elderly people. The inventory, the **Satisfaction with Amplification in Daily Life (SADL) Scale**, is composed of 15 items. It could be used to assess the outcome of a new fitting after a reasonable accommodation period or to assess the efficacy of an existing fitting.

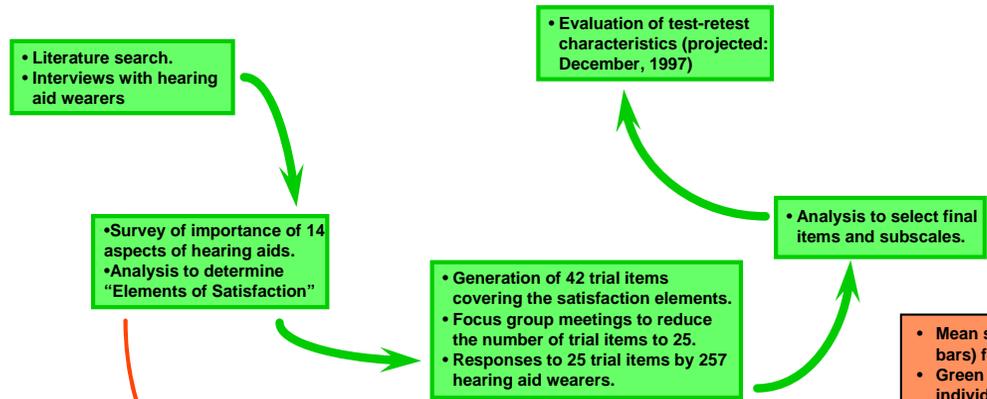
In the future, we will develop an expectation scale

based on the same set of items.

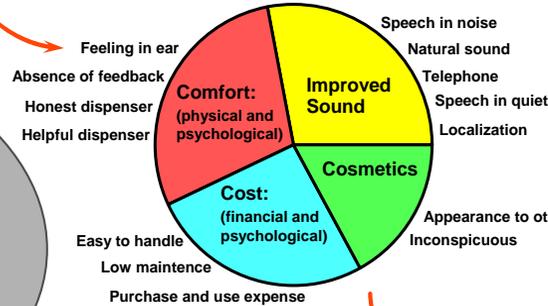
Subject Demographics



Steps in Development of SADL



Relative Importance of Four Elements of Satisfaction



- Most important for satisfaction:**
1. speech in noise.
 2. natural/clear sound.
 3. low maintenance.
 4. knowledgeable, honest, helpful dispenser.
 5. absence of annoying sounds like feedback.

Sample Items from SADL Scale

- Not At All
- A Little
- Somewhat
- Medium
- Considerably
- Greatly
- Tremendously

1. Compared to using no hearing aid at all, does your hearing aid(s) help you understand the people you speak with most frequently?
2. Are you frustrated when your hearing aid(s) picks up sounds that keep you from hearing what you want to hear?
3. Are you convinced that purchasing your hearing aid(s) was in your best interests?
4. Do people notice your hearing loss more when you wear your hearing aids?

- Mean scores (black circles) and 20th - 80th percentile range (yellow bars) for the SADL global score and each subscale.
- Green lines (circles) and blue lines (triangles) give results for 2 individuals who yielded different response patterns. These results indicate that the patient depicted with green is more satisfied than the patient depicted with blue.
- Clinical data are needed to validate interpretations of different response patterns.

