

BIAP Recommendation 06/13:

Evaluation of autonomy in the use of a hearing aid

General foreword

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Introduction

When a person with impaired hearing wears a hearing device, this involves certain constraints in its daily management (setting up and using the hearing aid functions, changing or recharging batteries, using maintenance products...).

These elements are clearly explained to the patient by the audiologist when fitting the hearing aid and during the prosthetic follow up.

However, certain patients can find some of these actions difficult, and this can lead to the patient misusing the hearing device or even giving up wearing it altogether.

For this reason, assessing the autonomy of each patient as regards the daily management of his/her hearing device is a vitally important element.

This analysis makes it possible to objectively measure a patient's autonomy at any age and for any type of hearing device (conventional hearing aids, implants, technical aids ...).

The assessment can be done at any time and by any member of the multidisciplinary team working with the patient (ORL specialist, geriatrician, general practitioner, audiologist, nurse, nursing auxiliary...).

Once the assessment shows that autonomy is compromised for one of the 10 items on the grid, a solution should be found and included in a personalised care plan for the patient with a hearing aid. This action should enable the device to be worn effectively in the best possible conditions, and allow the patient to derive maximum benefit from his/her hearing device.

Recommendation

See next page

Assessment grid for autonomy in the use of a hearing device

Patient's first and last names: _____

Date of birth: ___ / ___ / ___

Patient's situation:

Own home without assistance Own home with assistance _____

Geriatric institution Specialist institution Other _____

Type of hearing aid:

Behind-the-ear (BTE) Completely-in-the-canal (CIC) Receiver-in-the-ear (RITE)
 Life tube Cochlear implant Middle Ear Implant Bone-anchored-hearing-aid
 Other _____

Assessor's first and last names: _____

Assessor's occupation: _____

Date of assessment: ___ / ___ / ___ **Patient's age at the time of assessment:** _____

1.	Contacts audiologist	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
2.	Goes to see audiologist	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
3.	Differentiates between the left and right hearing aids	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
4.	Puts hearing aid in	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
5.	Removes hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
6.	Starts and stops hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
7.	Changes battery or accumulator Charges hearing aids	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
8.	Cleans the hearing aid every day	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
9.	Understands the instructions for using the hearing aid (taking the hearing aid out at night, when washing, ...)	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help
10.	Notices a malfunction in the hearing aid (ask the patient to put the hearing aid in after having removed the battery, and ask patient if it is working properly)	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs help

Comments:

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This recommendation was created and approved in a multidisciplinary cooperation between professionals of all audiophonologic disciplines, which are medicine, pedagogy, speech therapy, psychology and hearing instrument audiology.

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President of the commission 06: Christian Renard (France)

Members of the commission 06: Ahsen Enderle Ammour (Germany), Eric Bizaguet (France), Edilène Boechat (Brazil), Andrea Bohnert (Germany), Christine Dagain (France), Laurent Demanez (Belgium), Benoit Dierge (Belgium), Manfred Drach (Germany), Francois Fagnoul (Belgium), Haralampos Gouveris (Germany), Beate Gromke (Germany), Kristin Kerkhofs (Belgium), Anne Kerouedan (France), Heidrun Krause (Germany), Gaston Madeira (Belgium), Doris R. Lewis (Brazil), Christian Renard (France), Thierry Renglet (Belgium), Philippe Samain (France), Ghislaine Schram (Switzerland), Claire Vander Heyden (Belgium), Patrick Verheyden (Belgium), Thomas Wiesner (Germany), Fritz Zajicek (Austria).

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