

BIAP Recommendation 09/5: Required expertise for taking an impression of the ear canal

General foreword

This document presents a Recommendation by the International Bureau for Audiophonology BIAP. A BIAP Recommendation provides a reference standard for the conduct of an audiological or phonological intervention that represents, to the best knowledge of BIAP, the evidence base and good practice concerning the stated methodology and scope of the document at the time of publication.

Although care has been taken in preparing the information supplied, BIAP does not and cannot guarantee the interpretation and application of it. BIAP cannot be held liable for any errors or omissions, and BIAP accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage howsoever arising. This document shall be effective until superseded or withdrawn by BIAP.

Comments on this document are welcomed and should be sent to the Secretary-General of the International bureau for Audiophonology BIAP. The address can be found on the BIAP website at www.biap.org.

Recommendation

The conditions for taking an impression of the ear canal (hearing corrections, protection against noise, protection against water, communication systems, etc.) constitute the essential factors that justify implementation by a qualified health care professional.

First, the medical risk inherent in performing this type of technical procedure should be taken into consideration.

Second, the quality of the impression will affect the quality of the ear mould being made.

Training for impression taking is clearly defined and integrated in the training for qualified hearing aid professionals.

Only such a professional has the required expertise to implement an impression of the external ear canal, in accordance with the regulations that apply in each country.

The reasons for these requirements are related to the professional's capacity to master the following competencies:

- Anamnesis prior to the impression
- Anatomy of the hearing system
- Physiology of the hearing system
- Pathologies of the hearing system
- Occlusion of the ear canal and autophony
- Various otoscopic techniques
- Hygiene
- Biocompatibility
- Allergies
- Identification of risk factors (annex)
- Techniques and equipment for taking an impression

- Contraindications for taking an impression
 - Measures adopted if a problem arises while taking an impression
 - Contraindications for fitting customized ear moulds
 - Individual acoustic characteristics of each ear mould
 - Practical implementation of taking an impression.
-

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.

The original language of this document is French.

BIAP authorizes the broadcasting of documents available on its Web site but forbids any modification of their contents.

President of the commission 09: Christian RENARD (France)

Members of the commission 09: Christine DAGAIN (France), Laurent DEMANEZ (Belgium), Benoit DIERGE (Belgium), Ahsen ENDERLE-AMMOUR (Germany), Philippe ESTOPPEY (Switzerland), Francois FAGNOUL (Belgium), Adoracion JUAREZ SANCHEZ (Spain), Gaby LUX-WELLENHOF (Germany), Gaston MADEIRA (Belgium), Thierry RENGLLET (Belgium), Philippe SAMAIN (Belgium), Ghislaine SCHRAM (Switzerland), Claire VANDER HEYDEN (Belgium), Patrick VERHEYDEN (Belgium), Thomas WIESNER (Germany), Fritz ZAJICEK (Austria), Joseph ZEIDAN (Lebanon).

Athens, May, 1st, 2011

Keywords: ear canal, ear impression