RESULTS FOR THE NUCLEUS MULTIPLE-ELECTRODE COCHLEAR IMPLANT IN TWO CHILDREN


Two males, 9 years 10 months (CHILD 1) and 5 years 5 months (CHILD 2) at time of surgery, were implanted with the Nucleus multiple-electrode cochlear implant. Both patients were deafened as a result of meningitis in their third year. Assessments of speech perception, speech production and language skills were undertaken at regular intervals, pre and post operatively. For both patients in the audition alone condition, some speech perception post operative scores were significantly higher than pre operative scores and progressive improvements in scores over successive post operative data collection times were seen. Significant differences between the visual alone and auditory-visual condition scores were also observed for CHILD 1 post operatively. Speech production post operative scores were significantly higher than pre operative scores for both patients. The receptive vocabulary scores for both patients improved at a higher rate than that of age-matched normal children. The acquisition of expressive and receptive language skills for CHILD 2 was at a higher rate than that of age-matched children. Differences in the results between the two patients were seen, and this may be related to age and duration of deafness.
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