

**SPEECH PERCEPTION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN
CHANGING FROM MULTYPEAK TO SPEAK SPEECH
PROCESSING STRATEGY**

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**RSC Cowan, B Pyman, KL Galvin, S Shaw, EJ Barker, C Brown, JZ Sarant,
J DelDot, S Dettman, R Hollow, M Skok, PM Seligman, RC Dowell, WPR
Gibson, and GM Clark.**

**The Cooperative Research Centre for Cochlear Implant, Speech & Hearing
Research Melbourne and Sydney Australia**

In mid-1994, a new speech processing strategy termed SPEAK, was introduced for the Nucleus Spectra-22 cochlear prostheses. To compare benefits in implanted children changing to the SPEAK strategy, speech perception in a group of twelve children from Melbourne and Sydney was evaluated. The children were assessed in quiet and in background noise. The study involved four initial assessments using MPEAK, then eight evaluations at three-week intervals using SPEAK, and a final repeat evaluation with MPEAK. Mean scores on both open-set words and sentence materials were significantly higher with SPEAK in both quiet and background noise. All twelve children preferred the sound of the SPEAK strategy, and elected to continue to use it clinically. Subsequently, six of the children have been reassessed after 12 months and 18 months of experience with SPEAK. Mean scores showed continued improvement, particularly for tests in background noise. The results confirm those reported for experienced adult implant users, and suggest that children would benefit from changing to the SPEAK speech processing strategy.



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Author/s:

Sarant, J.Z.; DeIDot, J.; Dettman, S.; Hollow, R.; Skok, M.; Seligman, P.M.; Dowell, R.C.; Gibson, W.P.R.; Clark, Graeme M.; Cowan, R. S. C.; Pyman, B.; Galvin, K. L.; Shaw, S.; Barker, E. J.; Brown, C.

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