

## **A clinical protocol for multiple electrode cochlear implants in children.**

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A clinical protocol for an experimental study to evaluate the speech perception and production, and communication skills using the multiple electrode cochlear implant in pre-adolescent children has been developed. A single-subject time-series design has been adopted to regularly assess these abilities. During the pre-operative stage the subject's current hearing aids or tactile device are used, and for the post-operative stage the Nucleus multiple electrode intracochlear implant. Training is provided in both stages of the study. Also included in the pre-operative stage are the audiological and medical evaluations to determine whether the subject meets the selection criteria. Speech perception and production, and communication skills are assessed from a large selection of language and developmental-age appropriate materials. Psychophysical studies are also undertaken to measure the subject's abilities to discriminate simple stimuli differing in electrical parameter values.



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