Speech production results are reported for a group of 15 children, adolescents, and prelinguistically deafened adults implanted with the 22-electrode cochlear implant. Age at implantation ranged from 5 years to 20 years and implant experience ranged from 1 year to 4 years, 7 months. On a speech intelligibility test using sentences seven implant users improved significantly over time. Mean group performance \((n = 11)\) improved from 18% preoperatively to 43% postoperatively. Similarly on a test of articulation, eight implant users improved significantly over time and the group mean postoperative performance \((n = 11)\) exceeded the preoperative performance (55% compared to 38%). This group effect was significant for consonants and blends but was nonsignificant for vowels. Improvements occurred for front, middle and back consonants, for stops, nasals, fricatives and glides and for voiceless and voiced consonants. Three implant users showed no significant gain on either test. The results suggest complex relationships between speech production performance and sensory information provided by a multichannel implant.
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Title:
A clinical report on speech production of cochlear implant users [Abstract]

Date:
1994

Citation:

Persistent Link:
http://hdl.handle.net/11343/27388

File Description:
A clinical report on speech production of cochlear implant users [Abstract]