Self-reported self-efficacy in individuals who received cochlear implants before the age of 2.5 years in comparison to controls with normal hearing

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Background

Self-efficacy refers to a person's own beliefs regarding their capacity to perform specific tasks or general confidence in one's coping ability across a wide range of demanding situations. It is related to many aspects of quality of life and has been found to be lower in adolescents with cochlear implants compared to those with normal hearing. Knowledge of the long-term effects that early cochlear implantation may have on self-efficacy is lacking.

Aim

To investigate the long-term effects of early cochlear implantation on self-reported self-efficacy in a cohort of adolescents who received cochlear implants before the age of 2,5 years.

Method

The study is part of a larger cross-sectional study program with a multidisciplinary team approach called the TAYACI (Teenagers And Young Adults with Cochlear Implants) study. Participants were adolescents with cochlear implants between 12-21 years (n=47), and a control group of adolescents with typical hearing of the same age (n=47). Data was collected through the General Self-Efficacy (GSE) scale, that assesses the strength of an individual's belief in their own ability to respond to novel or difficult situations and to deal with any associated obstacles or setbacks.

Results

Preliminary data shows that Swedish adolescents who received cochlear implants at an early age have slightly lower levels of self-efficacy compared to the controls, and for female participants irrespective of group.

Discussion

Screening for self-efficacy skills could be useful in the habilitation services to create a more goal-oriented support with regards to self-efficacy skills in adolescents with cochlear implants.