The Swedish Quality Register for Hearing Loss in Children, SQRChildHear, -presentation and current results. Elisabeth Dahlström

Background: The Swedish Quality Register for Hearing Loss in Children, SQRChildHear, started in the nineties and includes now children with both unilateral and bilateral hearing loss (HL) with a PTA of >29dB. The unit response rate is 93% and the coverage rate for 6-year-olds is >85% for 19 of 27 pediatric hearing care units in Sweden. The register collects data on lead time, degree of hearing loss, type of hearing amplification, identification methods including screening. In the follow-up questionnaires at the age of 3, 6, 10 and 15, the utilization rate of hearing aids, access to technical solutions at school, access to parental guidance and results regarding speech and sign language development are reported.

Aim: The purpose of the SQRChildHear is to ensure quality of the Swedish health care system by collecting data concerning auditory and speech development in children with permanent hearing impairment.

Method: Analysis of data from recent years' registrations has been performed by SQRChildHear reference group in collaboration with Registry Center Västra Götaland.

Result/discussion: Since 2019, almost 3000 children have been enrolled in SQRChildHear. Out of 2580 children with HL, 53% were bilateral, 45% unilateral and 2% undefined. The majority presented a mild to moderate HL. The proportion of children fitted with air-conduction hearing aids was 95% for children with bilateral and 75% for children with unilateral HL. 70% of all children were identified by hearing screening.

Data from SQRChildHear can be used locally, regionally, and nationally to ensure equal, evidence-based, and timely care.