

Treatment Efficacy Summary



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Audiologic Rehabilitation for Adults

Hearing impairment, among the most common causes of chronic disability in the United States, can result from congenital or hereditary factors, age, disease, trauma, and ototoxicity. Hearing impairment affects the communication performance, psychosocial functioning, and general well-being of millions of people and impacts family members, friends, co-workers, and employers. According to a report released from the National Council on the Aging (NCOA), adults with untreated hearing loss were more likely to report depression and anxiety and were less likely to participate in organized social activities, compared to those who wear hearing aids.

For the vast majority of individuals, hearing aids are the most commonly recommended intervention. Among those who purchase hearing aids, however, at least one in five discontinues use, and even those who routinely wear their hearing aids demonstrate considerable evidence of residual disability or handicap.ⁱ Clinical evidence demonstrates that audiologic rehabilitation services enhance acceptance of and benefit from hearing aids/amplification devices and promote the resolution of residual communication and adjustment difficulties.

The efficacy of audiologic rehabilitation services including individual, family, and group counseling; speechreading, tactile, and auditory

training procedures; communication strategies development; and adaptive training with amplification and other assistive technologies has been documented in numerous studies. Audiologic rehabilitation promotes successful hearing aid use and improves the communication and psychosocial functioning of individuals with hearing impairment.^{ii, iii} Moreover, the cost-utility of providing audiologic rehabilitation services in conjunction with hearing aid fittings has been demonstrated.^{iv}

Audiologists administer rehabilitative assessments prior to intervention to document rehabilitative needs and identify appropriate intervention procedures. Audiologists provide educational, behavioral, technological, and counseling intervention procedures to address specific intervention needs and facilitate benefit. By providing ongoing client-clinician interaction, audiologists promote adherence to treatment recommendations. Additionally, audiologists monitor and evaluate progress to ensure treatment benefit, successful outcomes, and professional accountability.

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^{iv} Abrams, H., Hnath-Chisolm, T., McArdle, R. (2002) A cost-utility analysis of adult group audiologic rehabilitation: Are the benefits worth the cost? *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, 39(5) 549–558.