

Groundbreaking technology. Life-changing results.

Putting Audibel Via hearing aids to the test

Introduction

Every month more research is released showing how untreated hearing loss is correlated to an increase in isolation, depression¹, and a steeper decline in cognition². The most recent studies have now found that wearing hearing aids to treat hearing loss is correlated to an increase in working memory, leading to better memory retention. This means the brain has more energy for cognition and requires less effort for hearing and understanding³. Hearing aids can help reduce cognitive decline and possibly delay the onset of dementia, as well as reduce depression, anxiety, and isolation⁴.

Modern hearing aids help tremendously with day to day life, as well as overall health of the individual, through professional programming to the hearing loss prescription, performing better in background noise, and producing higher clarity and sound performance. To learn more about how new technology can help patients, the audiologists at Hearing HealthCare Centers (HHCC), in Colorado, conducted extensive focus groups that included patients from all eight of their locations.

The new Audibel Via hearing aids features some of the most innovative technology available, and are recognized as one of the highest quality hearing aids on the market. The premium offering of the Via product line, called Via AI, is the world's first to include embedded sensors and artificial intelligence. This opens gateways to Healthable™ features like activity tracking, to information features like language translation. Other advanced technologies also give all Via hearing aids incredible sound quality, especially when compared to other hearing aids on the market.

How the focus groups worked

Participating patients tried either Via 2400 Receiver in Canal or Via AI Receiver in Canal (RIC) hearing aids for 21 days. They filled out pre- and post-trial questionnaires, tracked their hearing with daily diary entries, and met with an audiologist once a week for any needed adjustments.

Real Ear Measurement (REM) was ran on hearing aids to verify they were programmed and fine-tuned for the specific hearing loss of each participant. Two different hearing tests were also performed during the focus groups - the NU-6 and High Frequency auditory tests. Audiologists compared participants' improvement between their previous hearing aids and the new by having them repeat back difficult words with their eyes closed. All participants had either one or both tests performed using their current hearing aids and their trial Via hearing aids.

Audiologists were looking for valuable insights into how patients responded to the clarity, sound quality and performance in difficult situations of Via technology. They wanted to understand how much improvement current hearing aid wearers might experience when using this brand-new product.

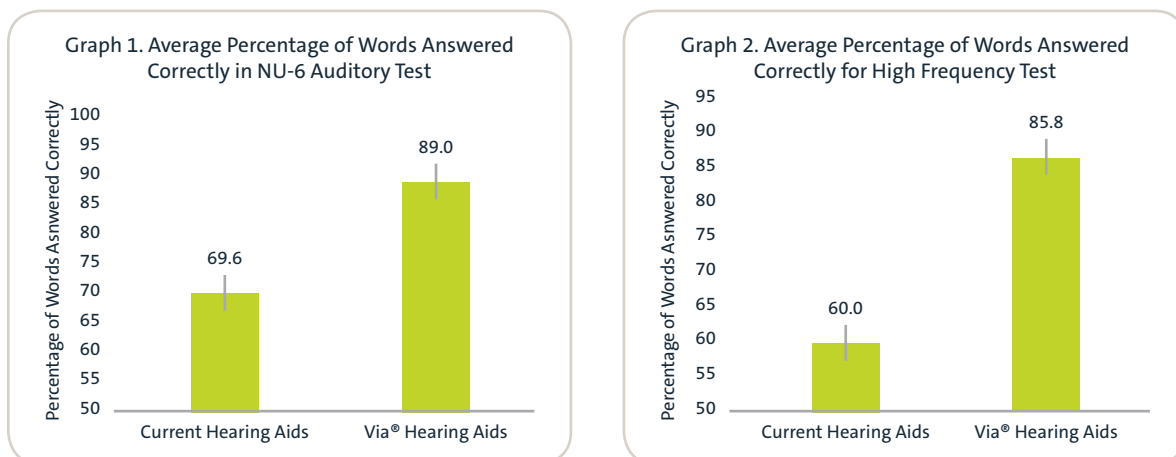
Results

A total of 92 people participated in the study across all eight locations. When data from the hearing tests and the post-trial questionnaires were combined, the results were substantial.

All participants except one (97%) reported they heard either “Better” or “Much Better” with the Via product compared to their own hearing aids. Twenty-four participants (63%) reported hearing “Much Better” and thirteen participants (34%) reported hearing “Better” with the Via hearing aids for overall sound quality compared to their current hearing aids.

In the short trial, 93% of participants reported an improvement in quality of life. And 94% of participants would recommend the Via hearing aids to family and friends.

All participants who took the auditory tests experienced a meaningful improvement when wearing the Via hearing aids compared to their current hearing aids. Even though all participants were current patients and had their previous hearing aids adjusted well for their hearing, they experienced an average increase of 19% and 26% in correctly repeating difficult words in the NU-6 and High Frequency tests, respectively. See graphs below.



Hearing should be a passive process, and it shouldn't require a lot of effort. However, when hearing is declining, it often requires more effort from the listener to figure out what is being said. Astoundingly, after wearing these hearing aids for only a couple weeks, nearly 90% of participants self-reported they noticed a decrease in auditory effort!

Conclusion

At the conclusion of the focus group, 95% of participants reported they were extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of sound. Many participants decided to purchase the hearing aids after the study. The overall experience of wearing them, their performance, and the improvement in sound quality and quality of life spoke for themselves.

References

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