

New Discoveries

BAHA Clinical Trials: Efficacy of the Bone- Anchored Hearing Aid for Unilateral Deafness

The bone-anchored hearing device now provides an effective alternative for those with hearing loss due to chronic otitis media, congenital ear canal malformations and single-sided deafness who cannot benefit from conventional hearing aids.

In studies over the past three years, Johns Hopkins researchers found that a bone-anchored hearing device (made by Cochlear Corp.) placed on the side of the deaf ear works better in subjects with normal monaural hearing than does contralateral routing of signal (CROS) amplification. These patients showed improved word discrimination in noise and said they were consistently satisfied with BAHA amplification; they rated CROS poor. General directional hearing decreased with CROS use and was unchanged by the BAHA device. Twenty-two of 23 subjects followed up in the 2006 study continue to use their BAHA device over an average follow-up that now exceeds two years.



Bone anchored hearing device

FULL ARTICLE

Lin L, Bowditch S, Anderson J, May B, Cox K, Niparko J. Amplification in the rehabilitation of unilateral deafness: speech in noise and directional hearing effects with bone-anchored hearing and contralateral routing of signal amplification. *Otolaryngol & Neurotolology*. 2006; 27:172–182.