

Study of Parental Attitudes Regarding Various Aspects of Cochlear Implantation

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Background

Parents are important members of cochlear implant team that analysis of their views is effective to improve services and outcomes. The present study was down among parents of children with cochlear implant who passed aural rehabilitation sessions to assess "parental attitude towards various aspects of cochlear implantation".

Aims & Objectives

To study Parental Attitudes Regarding Various Aspects of Cochlear Implantation.

Material & Methods

This study was conducted on 51 parents of children with severe to profound congenital hearing loss, with the mean age of 6.98 years and the mean age of cochlear implantation of 4.36 years, who underwent surgery and received aural rehabilitation program in Cochlear Implantation Center of the AmirAlam hospital at Tehran between the years 2007 and 2012. For data gathering, subjects' medical records and a researcher made questionnaire entitled "Parental attitudes of various aspects of cochlear implantation" with content validity

of 98.68 with 6 subgroups and a five options Likert scale of scoring from exactly=5 to none=1 was used.

Results

Mean score of the six subgroups of the questionnaire including communication skills, academic skills, social skills, cochlear implant centers' services, costs and make decision process were 4.22, 3.97, 4.31, 3.94, 4.27 and 3.29 respectively. No significant difference was found between scores of the questionnaire in age of cochlear implantation of 4 years and lower and above 4 years, except in the 3 items of academic skills subgroup ($P = .049$).

Conclusions

Highest parental satisfaction was observed in social skills and lowest ones in the academic skills. Because the optimum age for cochlear implantation is less than 18 months, it is possible that due to the mean implantation age of above 4 years in the present study, implantation age did not remarkably affect the attitude of parents.

Keywords: Attitudes; Children; Cochlear implant; Implantation age; Parents; Skills.