


## Factors Impacting Cochlear Implant (CI) Outcomes

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## Disclosures

- Research presented here is funded by the NIDCD
- **VUMC CI program:** industry-sponsored studies from Advanced Bionics (AB), Cochlear, and MED-EL
- Clinical Advisory Board Member: AB, Cochlear, and Frequency Therapeutics
- Investigator initiated research grants: Cochlear and Oticon Medical

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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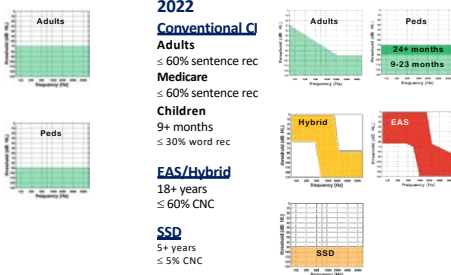
<p><b>Surgery</b></p> <p>Marc Bennett, MD <b>Director:</b> David Haynes, MD Robert Labadie*, MD, PhD Matthew O'Malley, MD Elizabeth Perkins, MD Alejandro Rivas**, MD Kareem Tawfik, MD Christopher Wootten, MD Frank Virgin, MD</p> <p><b>Neurotology Fellows</b></p> <p>Nate Cass, MD Nate Lindquist, MD</p> <p><b>Engineering</b></p> <p>Benoit Dawant, PhD Jack Noble, PhD</p>	<p><b>Audiology</b></p> <p>Susan Amberg, AuD Jourdan Holder, AuD, PhD Allyson Sisler-Dinwiddie, AuD Linsey Sunderhaus, AuD Sara Unrein, AuD</p> <p><b>CI Research Lab staff &amp; faculty</b></p> <p>Jourdan Holder, AuD, PhD Linsey Sunderhaus, AuD</p> <p><b>Speech/Language</b></p> <p>Stephen Camarata, PhD</p> <p><b>Consultants</b></p> <p>Susan Nittrouer, PhD Ferenc Bunta, PhD</p>	<p><b>PhD students</b></p> <p>Katie Berg, AuD Yibo Fan</p> <p><b>AuD students</b></p> <p>Andie DeFreese Katy Reindel Claire Murphy Lynn Shi</p> <p><b>Lab alumni</b></p> <p>Sterling Sheffield, AuD, PhD Kelly Jahn, AuD, PhD Nichole Dwyer, AuD David Kessler, AuD Adrian Taylor, AuD</p>
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\*MUSC, \*\*Case Western

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## Cochlear Implant Indications: 1997-2022

<p><b>1997</b></p> <p><b>Conventional CI</b></p> <p><b>Adults</b> ≤ 40% sentence rec</p> <p><b>Children</b> 18+ months ≤ 20% word rec</p>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p><b>Conventional CI</b></p> <p><b>Adults</b> ≤ 60% sentence rec</p> <p><b>Medicare</b> ≤ 60% sentence rec</p> <p><b>Children</b> 9+ months ≤ 30% word rec</p> <p><b>FAS/Hybrid</b> 18+ years ≤ 60% CNC</p> <p><b>SSD</b> 5+ years ≤ 5% CNC</p>
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## State of Knowledge: Adults & Children

<p><b>1997</b></p> <p><b>1995: NIH consensus conference: cochlear implants in adults &amp; children</b> <i>JAMA. 1995. 274(24):1955-1961.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant communication benefit for postlingual, but not prelingual adults             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• But, improved environmental sound awareness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Highly variable outcomes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short duration of deafness</li> <li>• Postlingual</li> <li>• If prelingual, implanted before 6 years.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Percutaneous CIs still have value</li> <li>• Needs: MRI compatibility &amp; telemetry</li> </ul>	<p><b>2022</b></p> <p><b>2020: Cochlear implant systematic review and consensus statements (adults)</b> <i>Buchman et al. JAMA-OTO, 46(10):942-953.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant communication benefit &amp; QOL for all recipients             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All implant types</li> <li>• Preserve hearing when possible</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Highly variable outcomes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter duration of deafness</li> <li>• Younger age</li> <li>• But, all ages will benefit</li> <li>• Increased risk of dementia with untreated (or undertreated) hearing loss</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Needs: CI awareness!</li> </ul>
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## CI Utilization in adults and children

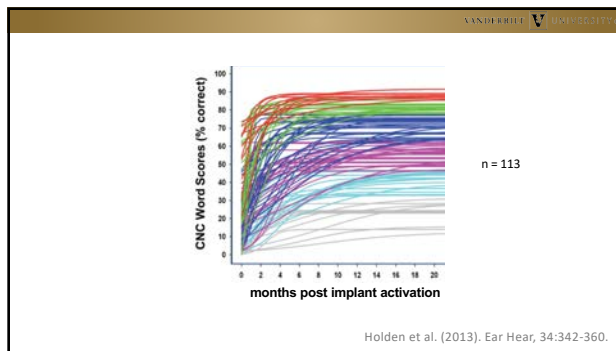
**NIDCD (2021):** As of late 2019 → 118,100 CIs in adults, 65,000 CIs in children

- **Adults:** ~2.3 to 12.7% utilization
  - Sorkin (2013). *Cochlear Implant Intl*, 14: S4-S12; Sorkin & Buchman (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37(2):e161-e4; Perkins et al. (2021). *Otol Neurotol*, 42(6):815-823; Nassiri et al. (2022). *Otol Neurotol*
- **Children:** ~50 to 59% utilization
  - Sorkin & Buchman (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37(2):e161-164.

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CI outcomes

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**Monosyllabic word recognition: Adults**

- Helms et al. (1997). ORL Otorhinolaryngol Relat Spec, 59(1): 23-35:
  - n = 55; 55%
- Balkany et al. (2007). Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, 136: 757-762
  - n = 71; 57%
- Gifford et al. (2008). Audiol Neurotol, 13(3): 193-205:
  - n = 157; 57%
- Holden et al. (2013). Ear Hear, 34(3): 342-360:
  - n = 114; 62%
- Buchman et al. (2020). JAMA Otolaryngol, 146(10):916-924.
  - n = 96; 61%
- Goudy et al. (2021). Trends Hear, 25:1-17.
  - n = 2735; 49% (246 prelingual → 15- to 28-percentage points lower word recognition scores)

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**Monosyllabic word recognition: Children**

- Davidson et al (2010). Otol Neurotol, 31:1310-1314
  - n = 109 (15-18 years) → 60% LNT @ 70 dB SPL  
47% LNT @ 50 dB SPL
- Breneman et al. (2012). J Am Acad Audiol 23:5–17
  - n = 70 (7-16 years) → ~80% LNT/CNC, 60 dB SPL
- Geers et al. (2013). Ear Hear, 34: 562-74
  - n = 60 (9-12 years) → 77% LNT, 70 dB SPL
- Dettman et al. (2016). Otol Neurotol, 37:e82–e95.
  - n = 125 (5-9 years) → 56% CNC, 65 dB SPL
- Davidson et al. (2019). JSLHR, 22: 1–14
  - n = 117 (5-9 years) → 82% LNT, 60 dB SPL

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**Clinical factors**

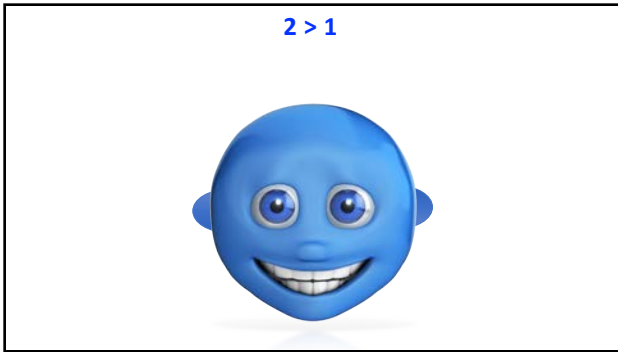
- Listening configuration
- Age at implantation
- Etiology
- Duration of deafness
- Hours of daily CI use
- Pre-/post-lingual onset of deafness
- Age at onset of hearing loss
- Scalar electrode location (ST, SV, ST-SV)
- Preop audiogram
- Preop aided speech recognition
- Preop duration of HA use
- Cognitive function
- Neural health

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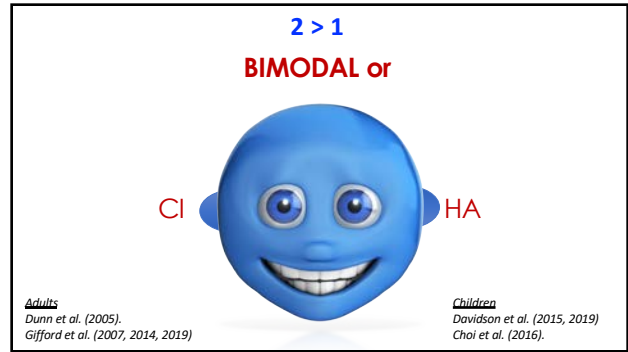
**Listening configuration**

Two ears are better than one.

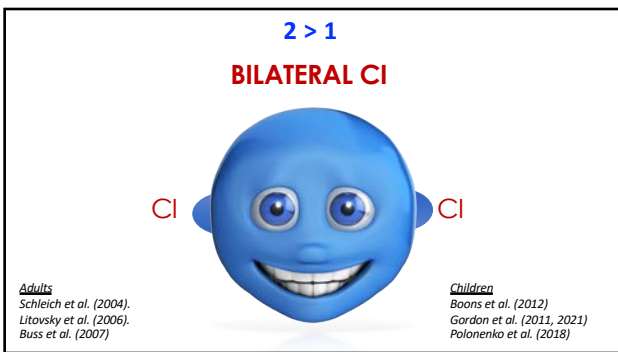
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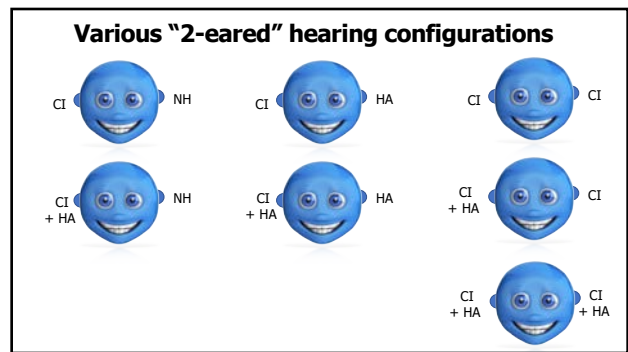
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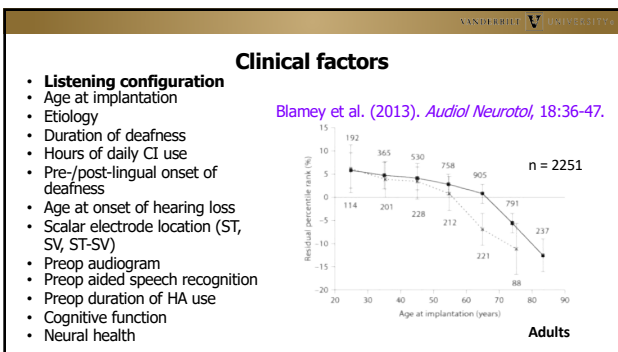
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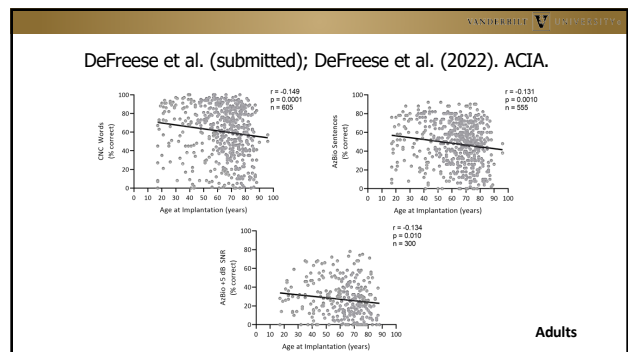
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### Influence of patient age on adult CI outcomes

- Yea:** Blamey et al. 2013 (n = 2251 ); Roberts et al., 2013 (n = 113); Sladen & Zappler, 2015 (n = 40); Crowson et al., 2020 (n = 1604)
- Nay:** Carlson et al., 2010 (n = 232); Budenz et al. 2011 (n = 108); Lenarz et al., 2012 (n = 1005); Chen et al., 2013 (n = 445); Bergman et al., 2020 (n = 40)

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Dettman et al. (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37:e82–e95.

n = 95  
PLS-5 at school entry

FIG. 3. PLS 4 and 5 standard scores for n = 95 at school entry, Groups 1–5.

Children

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Dettman et al. (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37:e82–e95.

n = 207  
PPVT at school entry

FIG. 4. PPVT standard scores for n = 207 at school entry, Groups 1–5.

Children

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CDaCI

n = 160  
n = 98 (CI < 2.5 yrs)  
n = 62 (CI 2.5-5 yrs)

CASL Core Composite Standard Scores

Age at Implantation Quintiles

Children

■ 4 yrs ■ 5 yrs ■ 6 yrs

Tobey et al. (2013). *Int'l J Audiol*, 52: 219–229.

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n = 40

Speech production intelligibility (% correct)

Age (months)

Children

● Implanted @ 8-12 months  
○ Implanted @ 13-24 months  
□ Implanted @ 25-40 months

Habib et al. (2010). *Int J Ped Otorhinolaryngol*, 74: 855-59.

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Dettman et al. (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37:e82–e95.

School entry

Group	Number complet ed OSW	Mean age at testing (yrs)	Mean device exp (yrs)	Mean OSW % words (SD)	Mean OSW % phon (SD)	Mean OSS % correct (SD)
1. < 12 mo	17	5.1	4.3	58.0 (18.7)	83.8 (8.2)	80.8 (18.5)
2. 13 to 18 mo	23	5.5	4.3	59.3 (15.5)	82.8 (7.9)	78.0 (29.2)
3. 19 to 24 mo	32	5.7	3.9	44.7 (25.2)	72 (19.2)	71.0 (23.3)
4. 25 to 42 mo	30	5.7	3.1	35.8 (23.6)	69.6 (16.2)	53.2 (24.8)
5. 43 to 72 mo	23	6.3	1.9	37.7 (23.7)	68.9 (16.9)	57.3 (29.8)

n = 125

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Dettman et al. (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37:e82–e95.

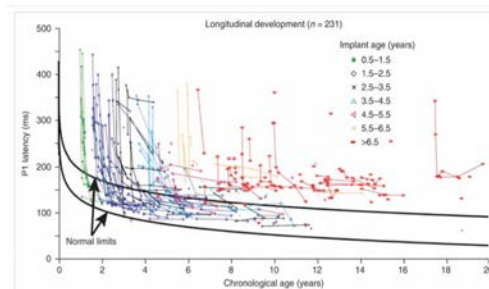
Late primary/early secondary school

Group	Number completed OSW	Mean age at testing (yrs)	Mean device exp (yrs)	Mean OSW % words (SD)	Mean OSW % phon (SD)	Mean OSW % correct (SD)
1. < 12 mo	10	9.1	8.3	83.7 (7.5)	93.7 (3.3)	96.4 (5.3)
2. 13 to 18 mo	16	9.4	8.1	74.8 (8.7)	90.1 (4.2)	93.9 (6.3)
3. 19 to 24 mo	13	9.3	7.6	75.5 (17.6)	90.1 (8.3)	90.2 (9.5)
4. 25 to 42 mo	27	9.6	6.9	53.9 (19.7)	77.8 (11.2)	75.3 (21.4)
5. 43 to 72 mo	15	9.6	5.0	48.2 (23.4)	74.1 (15.4)	79.9 (19.9)

n = 81

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Sharma et al. (2007). *Int J Audiol*, 46: 494-499.



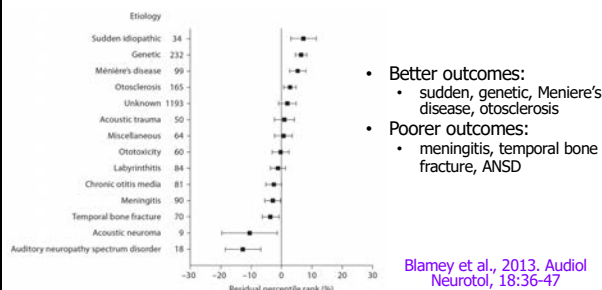
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Clinical factors

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- Etiology
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- Cognitive function
- Neural health

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Etiology: Adults



- Better outcomes:
  - sudden, genetic, Meniere's disease, otosclerosis
- Poorer outcomes:
  - meningitis, temporal bone fracture, ANSD

Blamey et al., 2013. *Audiol Neurotol*, 18:36-47

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Etiology: Children

- Better outcomes:
  - Genetic factors not affecting spiral ganglion
    - GJB2
      - Reading (Bauer et al., 2003)
      - Auditory development (Abdurehim et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2011)
      - Speech recognition (Cullen et al., 2004; Abdurehim et al., 2017)
  - Non-syndromic
    - Auditory development (Lee et al., 2022)
- Poorer outcomes:
  - Cochlear Nerve Deficiency (CND) (Wu et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2022)
  - Syndromic (Lee et al., 2022)
  - cCMV (Malik et al., 2011; Corazzi et al., 2022)

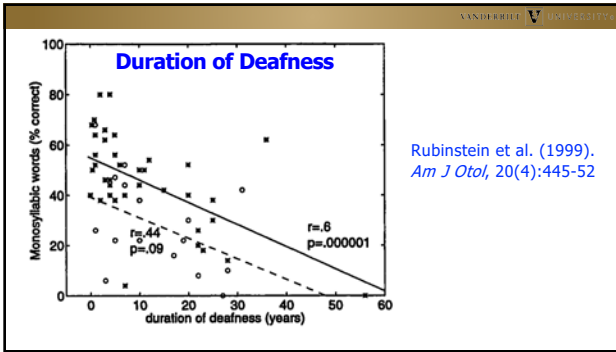
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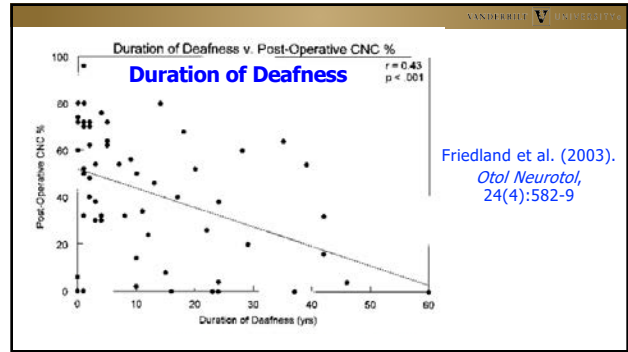
- Rubinstein et al., 1999. *Am J Otol*, 20(4):445-52.
- Leung et al. (2005). *Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*, 131(12):1049-54.
- Friedland et al. (2004). *Otol Neurotol*, 24(4):582-9.
- Roditi et al. (2009). *Otol Neurotol*, 30(4):449-54.

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Rubinstein et al. (1999).  
*Am J Otol*, 20(4):445-52

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Friedland et al. (2003).  
*Otol Neurotol*, 24(4):582-9

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**What is the relationship between**

- Duration of Deafness
- Age at Implantation
- Daily Processor Use

**and adult CI outcomes?**

DeFreese et al. (submitted); DeFreese et al. (2022). ACIA, Washington, DC

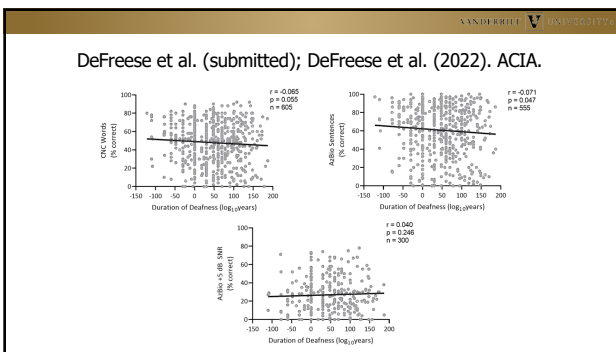
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DeFreese et al. (submitted); DeFreese et al. (2022). ACIA.

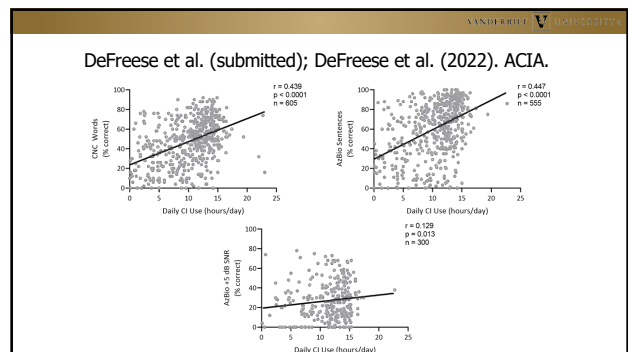
617 postlingually deafened adults

- Duration of Deafness: 0.1-74 years (median = 3 years)
- Age at Implantation: 17-96 years (mean = 63 years)
- Daily Processor Use: 0-23 hours (mean = 10 hours)
- Speech recognition: CNC, AzBio, AzBio +5 dB  
2-76 months' CI use  
Mean = 9 months

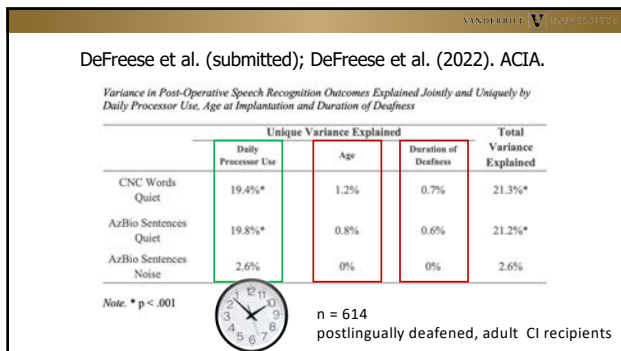
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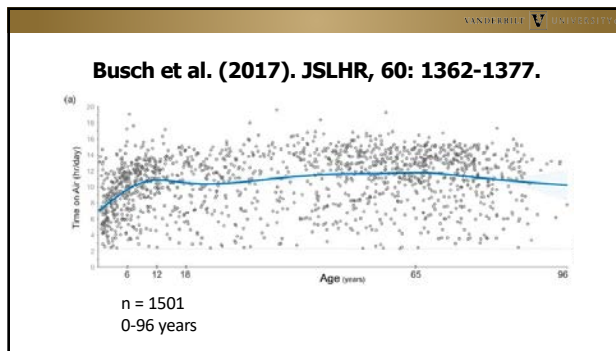
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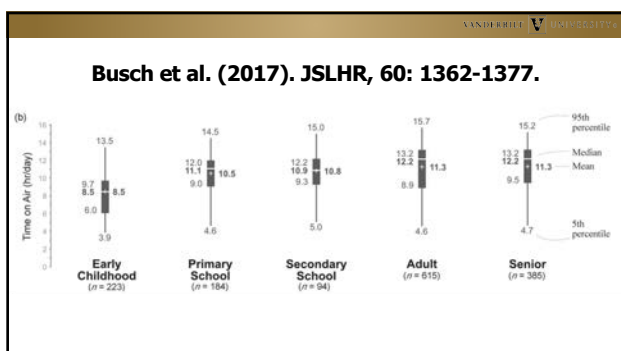
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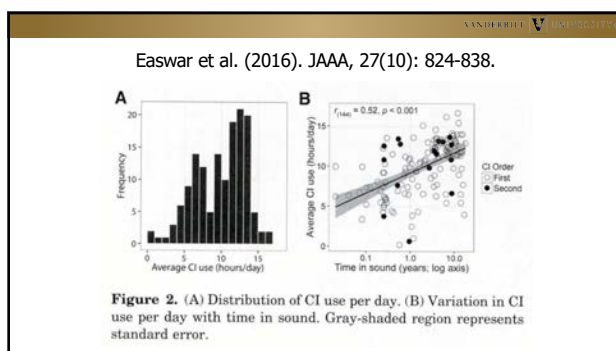
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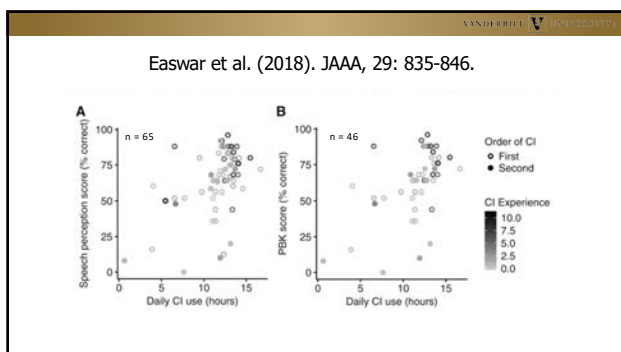
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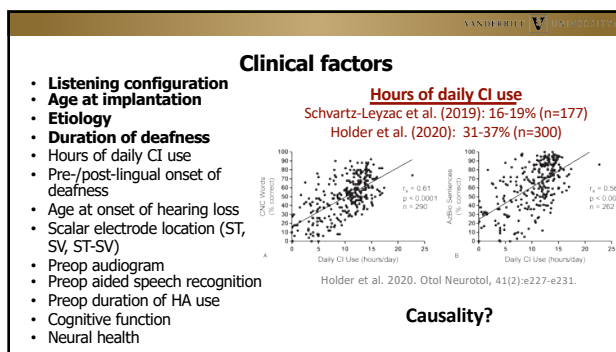
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Holder & Gifford (2021). *J Speech Lang Hear Res*, 64(10):4044-4055

**Purpose:** Investigate causal relationship between CI wear time and speech recognition



Jourdan Holder, AuD, PhD  
Assistant Professor

- 20 adult CI recipients
  - mean age = 55.1 years (18-79 yrs)
  - 12 female
- 12+ months CI experience
  - 9 AB, 11 Cochlear
- Daily CI wear time < 10 hrs/day
  - Mean = 5.9 hrs (0-10 hrs/day)
- Willingness to increase daily wear time

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Holder & Gifford (2021). *J Speech Lang Hear Res*, 64(10):4044-4055

**Visit 1: 5.9 hrs**  
• Range: 0-10 hrs

**Visit 2: 8.9 hrs**  
• Range: 1-13 hrs

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Holder & Gifford (2021). *J Speech Lang Hear Res*, 64(10):4044-4055

**For every 1 hour increase:**

- CNC: 3-percentage points
- AzBio quiet: 2.4-percentage points
- AzBio +10 dB: 7.0-percentage points

**AzBio +10 dB: 25%**  
5 hours/day  
Increase to 10 hours/day  
**AzBio +10 dB → 60%**

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Holder et al. (2022). *Otol Neurotol*, 43:e23–e29.

**Development and validation of the Cochlear Implant Use Questionnaire (CIUQ)**

- Based on Information-Motivation-Behavioral skills (IMB) model for identifying factors that contribute to successful medication adherence
  - Amico et al. (2005). *AIDS Behav*, 13:66–75.
  - Mayberry et al. (2014). *Diabetes Care*, 37:1246–53.
- n = 100
- **Purpose:** identify daily CI use habits and barriers to daily CI use using the IMB model

Mean: 10 hr (Data logging), Mean: 13 hr (Participant report)

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Holder et al. (2022). *Otol Neurotol*, 43:e23–e29.

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**CIUQ free download:** <https://www.yumc.org/cochlear-implant-lab/whats-new>

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**Clinical factors**

- **Listening configuration**
- **Age at implantation**
- **Etiology**
- **Duration of deafness**
- **Hours of daily CI use**
  - Pre-/post-lingual onset of deafness
  - Age at onset of hearing loss
  - Scalar electrode location (ST, SV, ST-SV)
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  - Neural health

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**Pre- vs. Post-lingual onset**

Chakravorti et al. (2019). Otol Neurotol: n = 220

Goudey et al. (2021). Trends Hear: n = 2735

- Prelingual onset → 15 to 30 points lower

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### Clinical factors

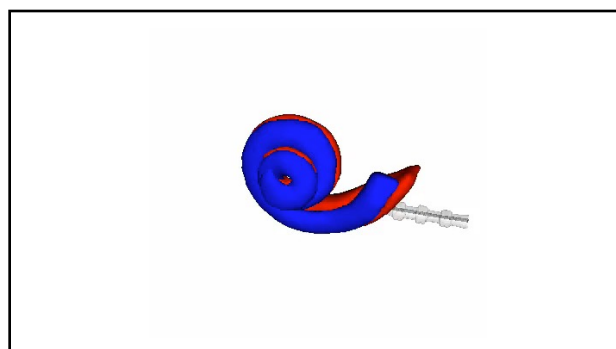
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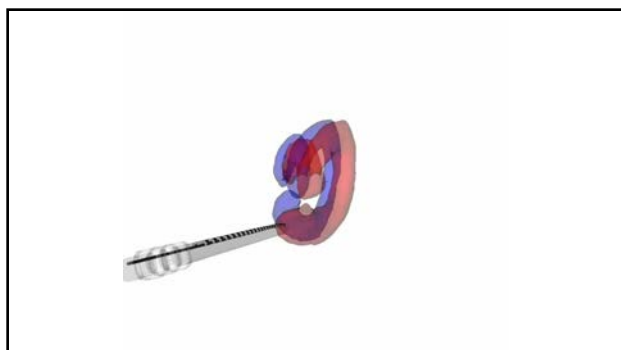
### Scalar electrode location

- Percentage of electrodes in scala tympani → better outcomes
  - Finley et al. (2008). Otol Neurotol, 29(7):920-8.
  - Holden et al. (2013). Ear Hear, 34(3):342-60.
  - Wanna et al. (2014). Laryngoscope, 124(Suppl 6):S1-7.
  - O'Connell et al. (2016). Laryngoscope, 37(8):1032-5
  - Schaul et al. (2018). J Laryngol Otol, 132(11):1000-1006.
  - Chakravorti et al. (2019). Otol Neurotol, 40:617-624.

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### Clinical factors: Adult outcomes

- Listening configuration
- Age at implantation
- Etiology
- Duration of deafness
- Hours of daily CI use
- Age at onset of hearing loss
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### Clinical factors: Adult outcomes

- Listening configuration
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**11-20% of the variance in CI outcomes**

Blamey et al. (1996): n = 808  
Lazard et al. (2012): n = 2251  
Blamey et al. (2013): n = 2251  
Goudley et al. (2021): n = 2735

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### Clinical factors: Adult outcomes

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**Cognitive function**  
Zhan et al. (2020): 23-36% (n=19)

**Neural health**  
Fitzpatrick et al. (2014): 47% (n=84)  
Fontenot et al. (2019): 15% children; 46% adults (n=284)

**Combined cognition + neural health**  
Walia et al. (2022): 60% (n=35)

**Transcalar displacement**  
Holden et al. (2013): 11-12% (n=113)  
Chakravorti et al. (2019): 9-16% (n=224)

**Hours of daily CI use**  
Schwartz-Leyzac et al. (2019): 16-19% (n=177)  
Holder et al. (2020): 31-37% (n=300)

**~10-60% of the variance in CI outcomes**

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## Other factors for consideration

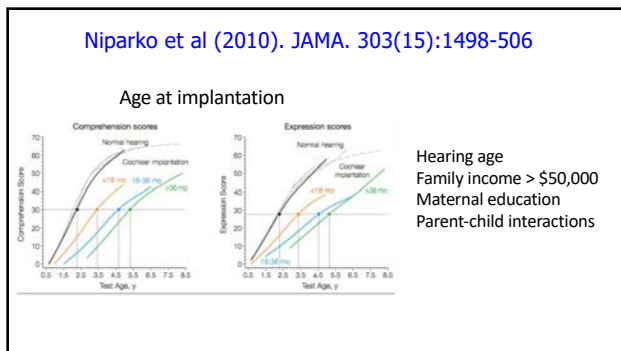
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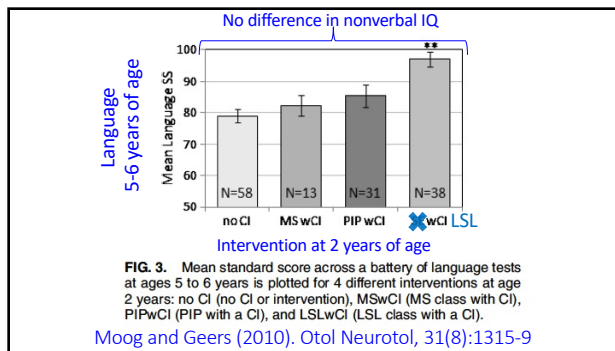
**Niparko et al (2010). JAMA. 303(15):1498-506**

- CDaCI study
  - Childhood Development after Cochlear Implantation Study
- Multi-center, longitudinal study (6 CI centers)
- n = 188
- Compares children who have CI(s) to similarly aged peers with NH across multiple domains
  - oral language development
  - auditory performance
  - psychosocial and behavioral functioning
  - quality of life.

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### Pediatric CI outcomes: additional factors

- Preschool educational environment (Moog & Geers, 2010)
- Mode of communication (Tobey et al., 2004)
- Prolonged use of sign language "by non-proficient signers" (Geers et al., 2017; Langeris & Vermeulen, 2015)
- Comorbidities (Ching et al., 2013)
- Anatomy

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### CI manufacturer

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Davis et al. (2016). Otol Neurotol, 37(1):31-7.

n = 157

	Brand	Array Type	Electrode	Fully ST	CNC	AZ Bio Q	AZ Bio +5	AZ Bio +10	SMD 0.5	SMD 1.0	APHAB	Distance	Max Angle
Brand													
Array Type	-0.668												
Electrode	0.165	-0.450											
Fully ST	-0.368	0.415	-0.295										
CNC	-0.066	0.097	-0.045	-0.023									
AZ Bio Q	-0.052	0.054	-0.043	-0.131	0.850								
AZ Bio +5	0.032	-0.010	0.035	-0.182	0.724	0.865							
AZ Bio +10	-0.054	0.139	-0.017	-0.218	0.566	0.684	0.877						
SMD 0.5	-0.014	0.046	0.000	-0.159	0.481	0.515	0.434	0.444					
SMD 1.0	-0.126	0.119	-0.109	-0.067	0.428	0.443	0.439	0.469	0.739				
APHAB	0.181	-0.190	0.154	-0.035	-0.468	-0.473	-0.512	-0.544	-0.239	-0.308			
Distance	0.608	-0.776	0.457	-0.376	-0.188	-0.111	-0.089	-0.218	-0.145	-0.178	0.218		
Max Angle	0.651	-0.436	0.628	-0.246	0.097	0.039	0.123	0.056	0.075	-0.048	0.064	0.223	

CNC Performance  
MED-EL: 46%, Advanced Bionics: 47%, Cochlear: 50%

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DeFreese et al. (submitted); DeFreese et al. (2022)

	Advanced Bionics	Cochlear Americas	MED-EL
Biological Sex (% female)	40%	47%	41%
Age at Implantation (mean years)	64.4	62.0	65.0
Duration of Deafness (mean years)	7.0	6.4	7.1
Duration of Daily Processor Use (mean hours/day)	9.9	10.9	9.8
CI-Only Speech Recognition (mean % correct)	CNC: 48% AzBio Quiet: 57% AzBio Noise: 24%	CNC: 49% AzBio Quiet: 64% AzBio Noise: 28%	CNC: 44% AzBio Quiet: 59% AzBio Noise: 31%

n = 614  
postlingually deafened, adult CI recipients

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### Precurved > straight (maybe)


Chakvorti et al. (2019). *Otol Neurotol*, 40:617-624.  
n = 220 (postop imaging)

Holder et al. (2019). *Otol Neurotol*, 40: 1160-66.  
n = 58 (no postop imaging)

Heutink et al. (2021). *Ear Hear*, 42;949–960.  
n = 129 (postop imaging)

Sturm et al. (2021). *Otol Neurotol*, 42(4):532-539.  
n = 119 (no postop imaging)

Caswell-Midwinter et al. (2022). *Trends Hear*, 26: 23312165211060983.  
n = 425 (no postop imaging)



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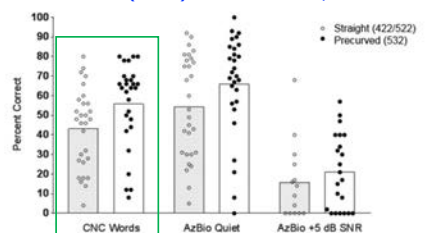
Holder et al. (2019). *Otol Neurotol*, 40: 1160-66.

- n = 58
- 29 CI422/CI522, 29 CI532
- Matched cohort comparison—6 months post activation
  - Age
  - Preoperative audiometric thresholds
    - No significant difference between groups for preop CNC word rec or postop daily CI use

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Holder et al. (2019). *Otol Neurotol*, 40: 1160-66.



**p = 0.016**

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### But, some studies show straight = pre-curved

MacPhail et al. (2022). *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*, 166(5):943-950.  
n = 89 (no postop imaging)

Moran et al. (2019). *Otol Neurotol*, 40(5): 608-616.  
n = 133 (no postop imaging)

Fabie et al. (2018). *Otol Neurotol*, 39(9):1122-1128.  
n = 328 (no postop imaging)

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### And, some studies show straight > pre-curved

O’Connell et al. (2016). *Otol Neurotol*, 37(8):1032-5.  
n = 56 (postop imaging)

Wanna et al. (2014). *Laryngoscope*, 124 Suppl 6:S1-7  
n = 100 (postop imaging)

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## Scalar electrode location and electrode type

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**Chakravorti et al. (2019). Otol Neurotol, 40(5):617-624**

- Dataset: 220 CI implanted ears from an IRB-approved database of CI users who underwent post-operative CT scanning
- Test scores used: CNC Monosyllabic Words, BKB-SIN Final CI position determined by segmenting cochlear anatomy and automatically localizing the electrodes on postoperative CTs

Manufacturer	Straight Arrays	Precurved Arrays
Advanced Bionics (AB)	Hifocus 1J (29)	Mid-Scala (21)
Cochlear (CO)	422/522 (20), 24RE(ST) (11)	Contour Advance (89)
Med-El (ME)	Flex24 (3), Flex28 (22), Medium (1), Standard (24)	--

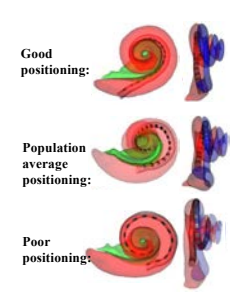
73

Case study:

- Male, CI at 35 y/o
- Postlingual
- 5 years CI experience

Using **Precurved** array

	ST insertion	Mean Modiolar Distance (MMD) (mm)	Base Insertion Depth (BID)(mm)	CNC score
Good Positioning	1	0.18	0	82% [66.30%, 97.83%]
Average Positioning	0.51	0.48	2.32	56%
Poor Positioning	0	0.78	4.64	30% [14.71%, --]



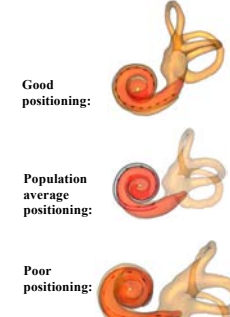
74

Case study:

- Male, CI at 35 y/o
- Postlingual
- 5 years CI experience

Using **Straight** array

	Base Insertion Depth (BID) (mm)	CNC score
Good Positioning	6.24	68% [56.30%, 80.20%]
Average Positioning	1.42	52% [45.50%, 58.67%]
Poor Positioning	-3.4	36% [24.50%, 47.33%]



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Case study:

- Male, CI at 35 y/o
- Postlingual
- 5 years CI experience

	Precurved Array	Straight Array
Good Positioning	82% [66.30%, 97.83%]	68% [56.30%, 80.20%]
Poor Positioning	30% [14.71%, 44.51%]	36% [24.50%, 47.33%]

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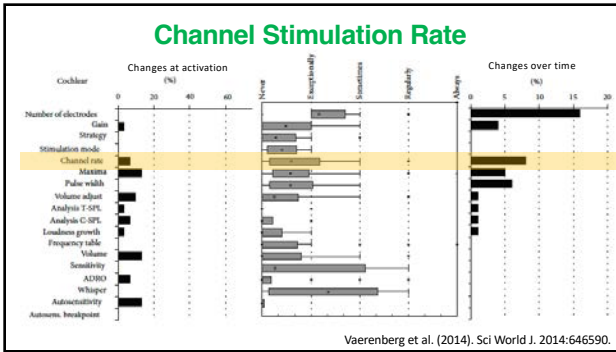
Stimulation Rate

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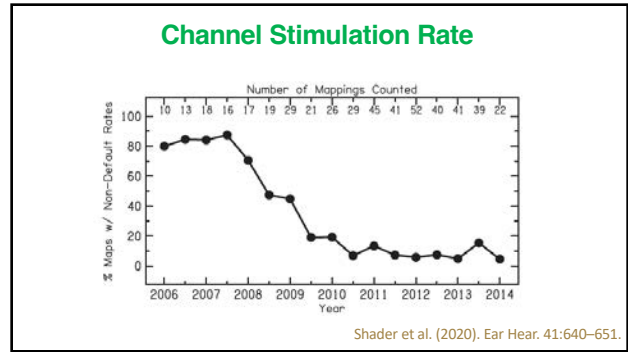
**Stimulation Rate**

- Channel stimulation rate:** # of biphasic pulses delivered to a *single electrode* over a 1-sec period
  - earliest CIs ~100-250 pps
  - current CIs ~900-2000 pps (250 up to ~4000 pps)
- Overall stim rate** = channel stim rate \* # active channels (per frame)
  - AB: 83k; Cochlear: 32k; MED-EL: 51k
- Higher stim rates *should* provide greater temporal representation
  - greater sampling of input acoustic signal
- Electric stimulation → highly synchronous ANF firing patterns
  - higher stim rates → greater ANF stochasticity
  - higher stim rates → wider dynamic range
    - Lower thresholds (T/THR), no change to C/M/MCL

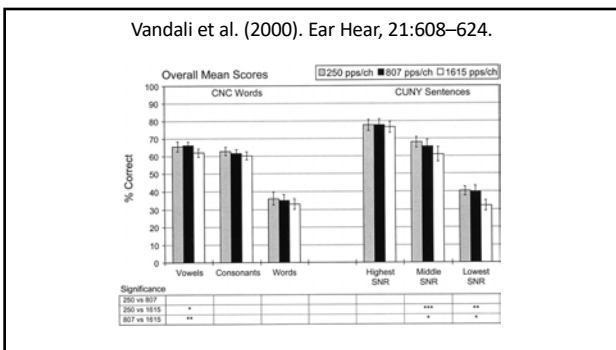
78



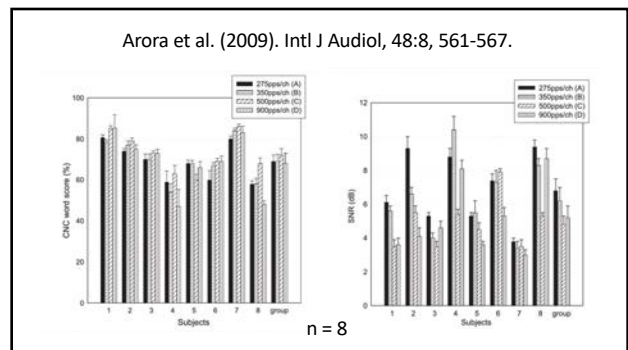
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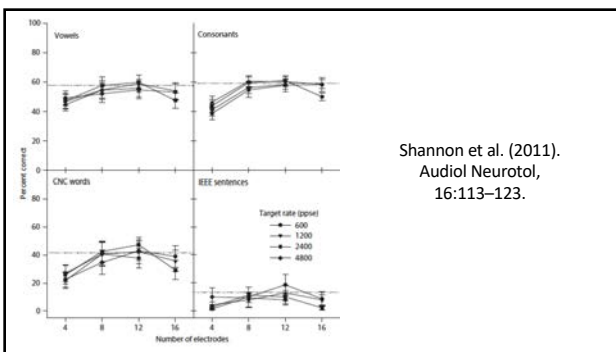
80



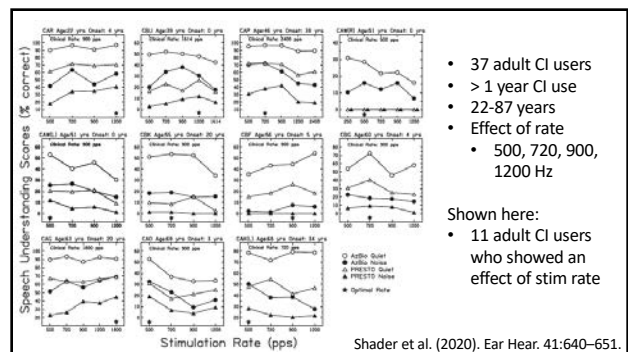
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## Summary

- 2 ears are better than 1
- Age at implantation
  - Critical for children, may be less important for adults
    - confounding factors in adulthood such as cognition and communication experiences
- Electrode position
  - ST > SV or ST-SV
    - Precurved > straight
      - But only when precurved is in ST; translocation → poorer outcomes
      - There are studies showing the opposite or equivocal outcomes
- Etiology
- Preschool educational environment, communication mode, comorbidities, anatomical anomalies, SES, sign language, etc.
- [Daily CI wear time](#)

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## Questions? Comments?

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