Presenter: Dominic Power

Topic: Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA)

Focus: How does a BAHA work; what's involved for getting one; does it work better than a BTE H.A.?

This was presented by a Professional academic with a medical model of deafness. He used his own evidence.

The often quoted "One ear working you don't need amplification" is found to be incorrect.

-Post BAHA across the whole group that he works with, their perception of hearing loss was that of a disability.

-On a 10 point satisfaction scale the BAHA scored 88%.

-The poorest score was being able to locate the source of sound which was 70%.

-Family opinion scored 99.5% which meant that BAHA's were seen as providing extremely positive benefits.

-There was an improvement of 35dB with BAHA as opposed to no hearing aid.

-CVC scores went from 30% without BAHA to 90% with BAHA.

-BAHA can be used for students with chronic ear infections.

-Bone conductor aids have COMFORT and RELIALIBITY issues.

Surgically implanted titanium (biocompatible) screw enables:-

vibrations → screw → through bone → into cochlear

This process was developed in the 1950's with experimentation on rabbits. In the 1970's they developed and implant that could be safely inserted into a person. Today this involves a 30minute surgical procedure where a 3-4cm screw is inserted into the skull. Daily maintenance is needed. Is available for children over 10 years.

BAHA's available BP100. Most common. Improved speech perception up to 45dB loss.

INTENSO. Slightly larger. For up to 55dB loss.

CORDELLE ll. Lowest demand for this, Has a battery pack. For up to 65dB loss.

There is a trial period to assess suitability.

A masked and unmasked hearing test is carried out on BOTH ears before consideration.

A trial is carried out at school and home using a spring as soft band. If this shows NO improvement then the surgery is NOT carried out.

If the child has poor dexterity and is unable to maintain care the surgery is NOT carried out.

If the child is able to wear air conducted aids the surgery is NOT carried out.

COST: $6500 for the external processor

$2500 for the titanium implant

PLUS surgeons fees, etc.

For insurance purposes a BAHA is listed as a hearing prosthesis NOT a hearing aid.

ON-GOING COSTS: 2 year warranty

5 year lifespan

Future budget for replacement.

Young children when done, show speech intelligibility improves and become more confident.

HOW TO CHECK IF WORKING. If it is on should have a visual indicator light on the side of the device.

Poor sound quality – check batteries. May need to restart. Turn off-take out battery-put back in-turn on.

Feedback – volume to high? Battery door? Contact with glasses arms? Send off to be repaired is still have problems.

ACCESSORIES -FM System

-Microlink (Phonak)

-Induction loop (telecoil attachment)

-audio input.

All these require fitting by an audiologist.