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EXPECTATIONS AND IMPACTS AFTER COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION

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BACKGROUND: Cochlear implants represent a revolution in hearing rehabilitation, offering a unique opportunity for individuals with severe to profound hearing loss to regain sound perception and improve their quality of life. Initially, patients' expectations often include the recovery of more natural hearing, the ability to understand speech in noisy environments and full social reintegration, as well as a significant improvement in everyday communication, autonomy and participation in cultural and professional activities. However, these expectations can vary depending on factors such as age, length of hearing loss, motivation, family support and the level of preparation prior to cochlear implantation. After implantation, the adaptation and rehabilitation phase is crucial.

OBJECTIVE: This study aims to explore patients' expectations after cochlear implantation, as well as the actual results observed in clinical practice, highlighting the differences between what patients expect and what they actually experience throughout the adaptation process.

PLACE OF APPLICATION: This study is aimed at speech therapists and other professionals who work with adults with cochlear implants.

DESIGN: Evaluation of adults' expectations after cochlear implant surgery.

POPULATION: In this work we analyzed the answers of questionnaires of 30 Adult cochlear implant users.

METHOD: A simple 20-question questionnaire was designed to quickly assess the expectations of adults with cochlear implants and how this device has affected their quality of life.

RESULTS: The results generally indicate substantial improvements in sound perception, especially speech understanding, although some users may still face challenges in complex environments. Patient satisfaction is often related to the alignment between their initial expectations and the results obtained, as well as the multidisciplinary support received during the adaptation process.

CONCLUSIONS: All the implanted adults were satisfied with the results obtained with cochlear implantation, reporting an improvement in quality of life, auditory perception and communication.