

OTICON | **Play PX**

life-changing
technology

Clinical considerations when selecting new hearing aids for children

Change isn't always easy - especially for children and teens. A new study offers insights for smoother auditory acclimatization to support you and your pediatric patients.

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"I thought I wasn't going to like getting new hearing aids until I realized it's better than the last ones"

Amy, 17 years old



Hesitant to change

When selecting new hearing aids for your pediatric patients, it's natural to feel reluctant about switching them to a new brand.

For instance, your patients or their parents might be hesitant to try new technology. You might expect the auditory acclimatization process – defined as the adjustment time related to learning to accommodate new auditory inputs through hearing technology – to be harder. Or you might think that counseling for change can't be done within a reasonable timeframe. And there's very little research available to provide you with answers.

Listening to the experts - teens

That is why we investigated this underexplored topic by speaking to teen hearing aid users themselves.

They provided insights that can:

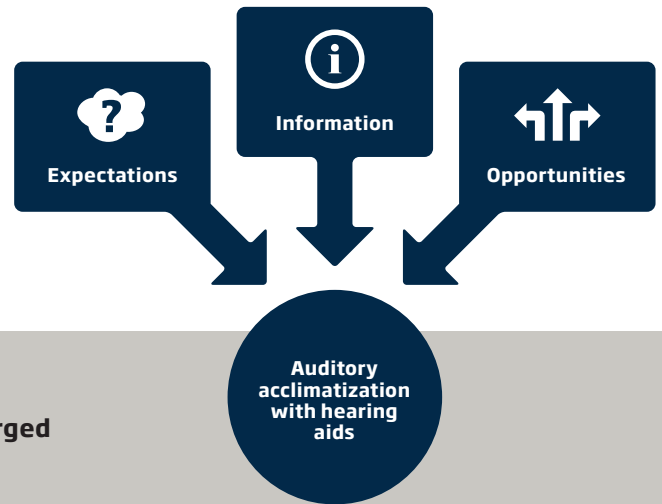
- Support you in making informed decisions in your clinical practice
- Help provide a clearer understanding of potential motivators and benefits of new technology
- Establish a set of best-practice guidelines to save you time when counseling young patients

Best practices – setting children up for success

To explore the potential for smooth auditory acclimatization, we conducted a qualitative case study. Two teens with mild to moderately-severe sensorineural hearing loss, wearing bilateral hearing aids from a top competitor, participated in an “in clinic” trial and interview session with Oticon Play PX miniBTE rechargeable hearing aids. First, an Oticon audiologist explained the idea of auditory acclimatization, and then asked the participants a series of open questions about the process and their listening experience with Oticon Play PX.

Key questions we addressed included:

- How easy is it for children and teens to change hearing aid brands?
- How should audiologists prepare pediatric patients for change?
- What is the auditory experience of teens fitted with a new hearing aid brand within a typical clinic appointment time?



From the 15-minute interviews, three major themes emerged as key facilitators for successful acclimatization:

1 Setting expectations is crucial

The teens wanted to know about adjustment time, how the hearing aids might sound, and how they might impact learning, social activities, and communication – explained in simple, concrete language.

2 Providing information is encouraging

They wanted to understand how the new hearing aids might help them hear better – especially in terms of sound quality and clarity, hearing in noisy environments, and listening comfort.

3 Discussing opportunities is motivating

They were willing and excited to try a new brand if there were benefits over their current hearing aid – specifically around cosmetics, wearing comfort, and new connectivity options.

Connectivity is a must

For today's children and teenagers, connectivity is a key part of how they interact with the world. The study participants emphasized that improvements in connectivity – as well as phone and music sound quality such as the outstanding music listening experience of Oticon MyMusic – were very important for them. They stated that these new benefits motivated them to work through the auditory acclimatization process and contributed to their preference to change to Oticon Play PX.

“ I like the way it connects to my phone and how clear the music comes through. I really like it ”

_____ Amy, 17 years old