



Assessment of Hearing in the Elderly:
Aging and Degeneration

Integration through Immediate Intervention

June 2009.

Dear Colleague

Re: Expert opinions on interventions following hearing screening in adults

We are writing to you on behalf of the European project “AHEAD III” (Assessment of Hearing in the Elderly: Aging and Degeneration, Integration through Immediate Intervention).

You can read more about the AHEAD III project at <http://www.ahead.polimi.it/>
Broadly, it is concerned with gathering evidence to raise awareness of the effects of hearing impairment and to produce guidelines on screening and subsequent interventions.

Work package 7 of this project is tasked specifically with reporting on intervention strategies following screening for hearing in adults. So far, our work has only found evidence in the literature of intervention through fitting of hearing aids, and we are interested to know of any work that involves other sorts of interventions. What we have decided to do is to compile a set of case histories (or other unpublished work) in order to demonstrate other effective interventions.

We are writing to you therefore as an expert in the field, to ask whether you would be willing to contribute any case histories on this subject. The types of interventions in which we are interested are:

- Environmental modifications
- Hearing tactics
- Assistive listening devices / assessment of home situation
- Auditory training
- Counselling / Cognitive behavioural therapy
- Family therapy
- Peer support
- Assertiveness training
- Medical interventions
 - Onward referral
 - Full diagnosis
 - Wax removal
 - Surgery

- Information provision
 - Leaflets/ website information
- Hearing monitoring
- Advice about hearing protection

The case history may be in any format you choose, we are keen simply to demonstrate and then disseminate the effectiveness of interventions following hearing screening that are not solely hearing aids. It may be that hearing aids are part of the intervention; if so, that would not exclude the case.

It is likely that you are working in an area where hearing screening is not widespread, or does not exist at all. If this is the case, we would still be pleased to receive from you any case histories (or other unpublished work) that you consider would help our task. That is, we are keen to assemble a set of case histories where the intervention is not solely hearing aids.

Finally, if you have any comments on the use of non-hearing aid interventions following hearing screening, please do include them. We are interested to know how you view this area.

The questions we are posing are summarised below for your convenience. Please send your replies to Pauline Smith at paulineannsmith@aol.com

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this, please either email Pauline on the address above, or call her on +44 (0) 7960 144 382.

With very many thanks for your help,

Yours sincerely

Prof Adrian Davis, Director and
Pauline Smith, Clinical Scientist (Audiology)
MRC Hearing & Communication group, University of Manchester, UK

On behalf of all members of WP7 AHEAD III
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AHEAD III Questionnaire:

Interventions following hearing screening in adults

Is there any screening service for adult hearing in your area?

If so, what sorts of interventions are offered following the screening?

Do you have a case history for an adult receiving non-hearing aid intervention after screening? If yes, please add details

Do you have a case history of an adult receiving non-hearing aid intervention? If yes, please add details

What do you think about non-hearing aid intervention for adults following hearing screening?

Would you consider introducing a hearing screening service for adults in your area, if you do not have one now?

Name

Institution

Thank you for completing this short questionnaire.

Please send your replies to Pauline Smith at paulineannsmith@aol.com