Pediatric Hearing Aid Orientation in Rural Guatemala

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Audiology in Guatemala

Healing the Children

- Since 2003
- Over 1,500 children fit with hearing aids (donated)
- Established 3 rural clinics
- Training to audio technicians to provide follow up services
Challenges in Guatemala

- Low adult literacy rates
- Low education
- Language barriers
- Cultural disparities
- Travel time to clinics
- Late identification of hearing loss
Importance of a Good Hearing Aid Orientation

Three main topics covered:
1. Motivation to use hearing aids to learn to communicate by listening and speaking
2. Device knowledge and troubleshooting
3. Realistic expectations of outcomes
Objectives

- Assess the effectiveness of the hearing aid orientations currently provided at three rural clinics
- Provide training to the audio technicians
- Long term goal: help audiology become a sustainable practice in rural Guatemala
Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic Site</th>
<th>Test Subjects</th>
<th>Control Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xela</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morales</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Benito</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children ages 3 to 15
Test Group Orientation
Results

The box plot compares the total change in score between the Control Group and the Test Group. The Control Group shows a smaller range of change, while the Test Group has a wider range, indicating more variability in the scores.
Maintenance Tools

Supplies given to parents participating in this study:

- Maintenance kits donated by Phonak
- Hearing aid orientation packets with pictures and written instructions
Audio Technician Training

- Walked through the hearing aid orientation
- New equipment orientation
- Extra supplies left behind
Conclusions

• Donated supplies needed
• Further training will benefit families
• Outreach teams should focus on training
Questions?

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