
Tilmelding af Foredrag

Foredragets titel

Preliminary results of the Innovation of Hearing Rehabilitation and Effects of Reform (InHEAR) project

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Introduktion

Innovation of Hearing Rehabilitation and Effects of Reform (InHEAR), originated from a 2018 political initiative introducing innovative approaches to improve future hearing health care in Denmark. The project aimed to investigate patient safety, patient-reported satisfaction, and treatment quality of a digital and remote ENT specialist assessment routine.

Materiale/metode

The main study was a randomized clinical trial with three subgroups comprising 751 potential first-time adult hearing aid (HA) users. ENT specialist assessments were performed remotely in two test groups and physically in the control group. HA treatment or additional examination was initiated when indicated. Regardless of group affiliation, all participants underwent a physical, "gold standard" ENT specialist assessment 2-3 months after treatment initiation. Patient-reported treatment quality and satisfaction were registered throughout the study, and HA-usage time was registered after 2-3 months.

Resultater

Compared to conventional assessment practice, initial test results show no sign of remote assessment inferiority in detecting complicated hearing loss and/or conditions that need specialized examination and/or treatment in an audiology hospital department in adult first-time HA users. So far, there is no significant difference in patient-reported treatment quality, patient satisfaction and HA usage between groups.

Diskussion

The main concern with remote assessment is compromised diagnostics of complicating conditions in first-time HA users. However, initial results of remote assessment testing in hearing-impaired adults seem to counter this concern. With a few alterations, the remote ENT specialist assessment routine as presented in this study could become the future favoured alternative to the current assessment practice in Danish hearing healthcare.

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