

The "Better Hearing Rehabilitation" project: Research into improved diagnostics and hearing aid treatment made in Denmark

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Around 20% of hearing aid owners do not regularly use their devices, apparently because they do not obtain sufficient benefit from them. As a result, hearing rehabilitation is not accomplished and clinical resources are wasted. In 2016, the "Better Hearing Rehabilitation" (BEAR) project started in Denmark. The BEAR project is a multi-centric, interdisciplinary research project whose overall vision is to improve hearing rehabilitation through an evidence-based renewal of clinical practice. Although much research into better diagnostics and hearing aid treatment has already been conducted, promising findings have often not been translated into clinical practice because previous efforts lacked scale, structure and coordination. To overcome these limitations, the BEAR project includes key stakeholders from universities, hospitals and hearing aid companies. A large-scale investigation is carried out that comprises studies of current practice, the development and experimental application of new methods, and the clinical evaluation and implementation of the most promising renewals. It is hoped that the obtained results will guide future clinical practice by determining the best methods for characterizing patients into different subpopulations and for selecting the best treatment strategies (e.g. devices or fitting methods) for them. In this contribution, we provide an overview of the overall setup and present and discuss some of our results.