

2005 AVAA Meeting Poster Abstracts

Performance Review and Feedback Tool for Hearing Evaluations

Margaret Peak, Ph.D., VA Gulf Coast Healthcare System, Biloxi, MS
Matt Strom, Au.D., VA Gulf Coast Healthcare System, Biloxi, MS

Presentation of a tool designed to provide feedback on the administration of hearing evaluations in order to facilitate performance review.

Case Reports: BAHA Fittings

Judy Schafer, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Washington, DC
Jenny Kingsbury, B.S., Au.D. Candidate, VA Medical Center, Washington, DC

Review of cases to date at VAMC, Washington, DC, using BAHA fittings in a variety of disorders, including chronic middle ear disease, otosclerosis, and single sided deafness. BAHA results reported for both the Divino and Cordell fittings.

Ethical Practices in Audiology

Stephen Gonzenbach, Ed.D., VA New York Harbor Health Care System, New York, NY

Ethical Practices in Audiology continues to receive attention in both the public and private sectors. This poster session will address the critical tenets of ethics in audiological practice in a VA setting. Examples will be shown of situations in which an audiologist may be at risk for violating ethical standards. Specific principles of ethical conduct will be identified in each situation.

A Proposed 4th Year Au.D. Matching Program and Its Implications for VA Audiology

Harvey Abrams, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, FL
Donna Scheitler, Au.D., VA Medical Center, Bay Pines, FL

One of the greatest challenges facing Au.D. programs continues to be placement of the 4th year student. Students are often required to locate their own 4th year training opportunities. IN many instances the training institution is not involved in the review or in the approval of the training site. One possible solution to this problem is the implementation of a nation-wide matching program which, while used for many professional training programs, has not been available to Au.D. students. This poster will describe an audiology matching program proposed by the *Matching Audiology Foundation*. The matching program provides an opportunity for VA audiology programs receiving OAA training funds to be matched to 4th year Au.D. students who are interested in a VA placement.

Progress in Achieving One Step Data Entry of Audiologic Test Results in VA

Patrick M. Masone, Au.D., VA Medical Center, Northport, NY

The progress of the Information Technology Taskforce's efforts to achieve a one step data entry system for audiologic test results will be discussed. It will include a proposed flow chart, names of committee members and a timeline of the process.

Subjective Hearing Difficulty and Hearing Aid Satisfaction

E. Kimberly Barry, Au.D., VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA
S. Joseph Barry, Ph.D., VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA

The International Outcome Inventory for Hearing Aids (IOI-AH) is a seven-item survey intended for use in research settings. With the development of norms for the American English language version of the instrument, the potential exists for assessing how favorable an individual evaluates his or her hearing aid relative to other hearing aid users. In their normative study, Cox and her colleagues found a statistically-significant difference in overall hearing aid satisfaction between groups with lesser versus greater subjective unaided hearing difficulty, with the latter group showing more satisfaction with hearing aids.

The present study examined that difference in two groups of VA patients, and explored the relationship between unaided hearing difficulty and hearing aid satisfaction. Subjects were fifty, male, experienced hearing aid users, randomly drawn from a population of veterans who had completed the IOI-HA in an ongoing quality assurance program following fitting with new hearing aids. Half reported having mild or moderate hearing difficulty, and half reported having moderately severe or severe difficulty.

The results showed no significant difference between the means for scores of hearing aid satisfaction for the group with mild to moderate subjective unaided hearing difficulty and the group with moderately-severe to severe difficulty or any systematic relationship between the two domains. It appears that norms obtained on private practice patients are not appropriate for use with VA patients.