

## SUITABILITY OF HEARING AIDS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Ngiow Jen Sen

This study surveys the suitability of hearing aids used by the students in special school in Kuala Lumpur. Suitability was studied by comparing the wlvetroacoustic performance of the hearing aids against 3 aspects, which includes average and the frequency response of the required coupler gain and the maximum power output as prescribed by the NAL rule. The operational definition of suitability was given by the researcher. Of the 50 ears and hearing aids, which were involved in this study, 22% had suitable average required coupler gain, 30% had suitable frequency response and 24% had suitable maximum power outputs. The data of this study was further divided according to school, gender and severity of hearing loss. There were a higher percentage of hearing aids in School A, which had suitable average gain while in School B there was a higher percentage of hearing aids with suitable frequency response. More subjects with severe hearing loss received suitable average gain compared to subjects with profound hearing loss. Female subjects were found to have a higher percentage of hearing aids, which were suitable from the three aspects studied when compared to the male subjects. This study recommends the use of coupler gain measurements as a tool to monitor and detect hearing aids, which are unsuitable for the user, especially in schools. This is to ensure that the students receive adequate amplification at all times.

Ngiow, J. S. 1999. Suitability of Hearing Aids in Special Schools. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.