Spoken language development in a prelingually deaf child where total communication was used prior to cochlear implantation

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Title: Spoken language development in a prelingually deaf child where total communication was used prior to cochlear implantation
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Abstract: Brain development is rapid in the early years of life and access to language is critical. Cochlear implant technology is changing access to spoken language for deaf children, with infants as young as 8 months old being implanted. However, there are cases where children awaiting implantation do not receive access to language for more than a year of life. This case study documents the language development of one child whose family exposed him to a flexible Total Communication approach prior to implantation. The purpose of the study was to observe the extent to which exposure to signs and gestures supported the development of spoken language and concept development both prior to and after implantation at the age of 16 months. Results indicated that the child’s transition from a TC approach to spoken language was natural and smooth, resulting in age appropriate spoken language, concept development and expressive vocabulary.

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2) Assess the language, speech and voice outcome of cochlear implant in children with prelingual deafness. **METHOD:** Prelingual deaf children with more than 5 years of aural rehabilitation with cochlear implant in a Portuguese Im-plant Centre (Centro Hospitalar de Coimbra), from 1992 to 2009, were submitted to tonal and vocal functional gain, dis- crimination tests adapted to the age of the individuals, auditory comprehension, speech and language. The monosyllables, numbers and sentences discrimination tests (Portuguese European Language tests) were presented in free field with recorded lists Cochlear implants are allowing such linguistic access to many prelingually deaf children, providing a growing body of compelling evidence regarding the usefulness of these devices in the pediatric population. **Benefits of Cochlear Implants for Language Development.** Measuring Language Benefit in Children with Cochlear Implants. The majority of the subjects used TC prior to implantation, yet a strong shift to spoken language was observed after implantation, depending on age at CI. All of the children implanted under 18 months of age made successful transitions to spoken language. As age at implantation increased, fewer and fewer children became competent users of spoken language. Following cochlear implantation, children show dramatic improvements in speech production. The most dramatic improvements in speech intelligibility are seen in the first three years following implantation. Specifically, prelingually deaf children with cochlear implants seemed to be impaired in sentence recall tasks due to memory deficits for spoken and written language. Cochlear implant users excel at expressive vocabulary tests, with 58% scoring at an age appropriate level. Hearing aid use prior to cochlear implant: Children who used hearing aids prior to receiving the cochlear implant have better speech production ability. Time since cochlear implant surgery: This factor explains the most variability in cochlear implant users speech production ability.