Aural Diversity in Pediatric Aural Rehabilitation

Lochet, Domitille SLPD CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert AVT
Azan-Ramil, Mylene MS CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT Candidate
Bertinelli, Theresa, OT
Lopez, Alina SLP-CCC, LSLS Cert. AVT
Mestres, Alexandria M. E.
Torres, Amy, SCW

Objectives

- To raise awareness about aural diversity
- To highlight cases to reflect on the aural diversity spectrum
- To present the results of a survey of clinicians/interventionists conducted at the 2024 Alexander Graham Bell Global Symposium on their exposure to aural diversity
- **Scan the QR codes below to access video presentations, best viewed on phone with headphones**

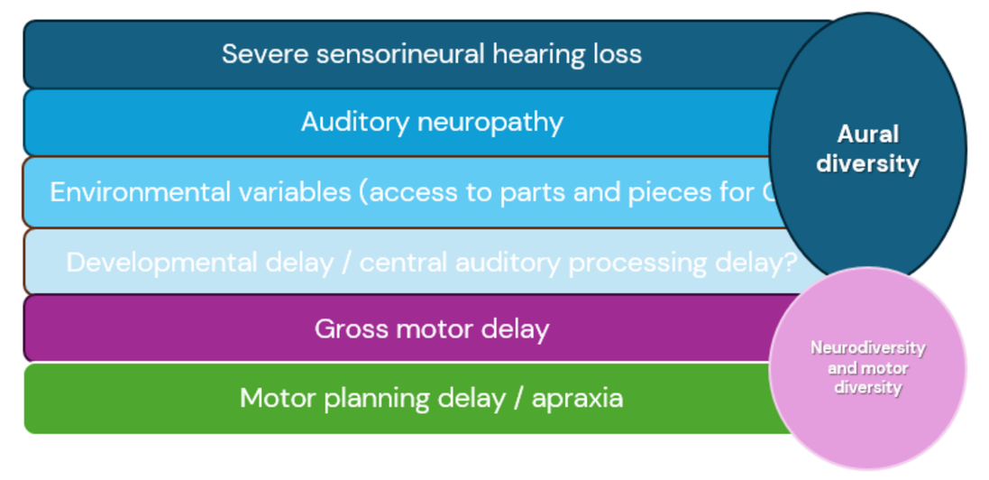
Methodology

- Presentation of the concept of aural diversity first described by Dr. Andrew Hugill (University of Leicester) and Dr. John Drever (Goldsmith University of London)
- Two case examples that highlight aural diversity
- Results of survey of 51 clinicians at the Alexander Graham Bell Association Global Symposium on aural diversity

(Link to video linked via QR code 1:) https://tinyurl.com/39crdtm3)

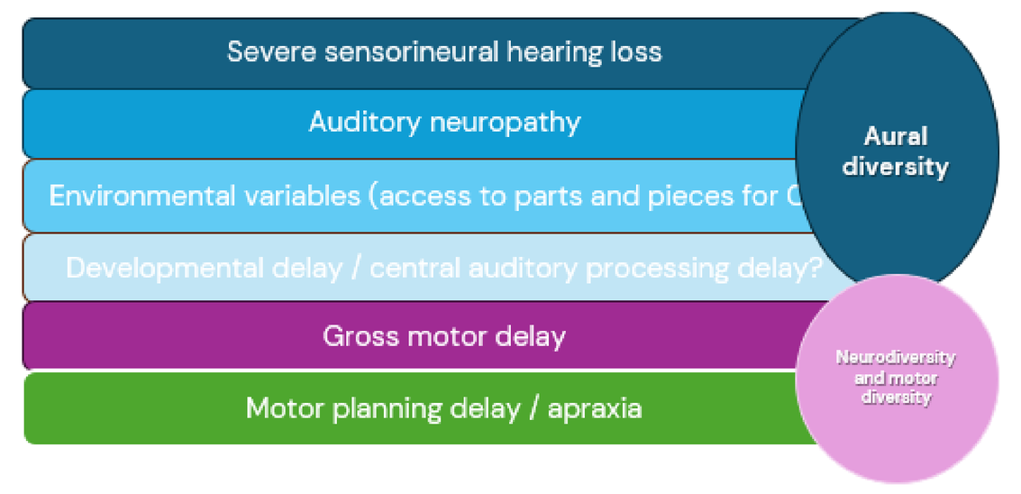
Cases

- ❑ **Neurodiversity:** Leila's example and the importance of sensory profile awareness



(Link to video linked via QR code 2: https://tinyurl.com/bdzn83fk)

- ❑ **Auditory Neuropathy:** Mia's example or being open minded with communication modality



(Link to video linked via QR code 3: https://tinyurl.com/3uuun38n)

MAIN TAKE AWAYS

Aural diversity refers to the wide range of human auditory experiences beyond hearing thresholds. These experiences point to the need for comprehensive team approaches with the patient and family at the center

While research questions often exclude alternative auditory profiles in their target populations **(e.g., auditory neuropathy, neurodiverse hearing differences such as hypersensitivity to sounds, or auditory nerve hypoplasia)** it is critical to include these differences to inform intervention due to their underreported prevalence on our caseloads. More than half of interventionists in the hearing professions surveyed had children with these differences on their caseloads

Clinical Awareness: with this topic we aim for hearing health clinicians /stakeholders to appreciate the layers of complexity of patients' listening experiences and to foster the development of relevant research questions across diverse settings beyond communication modalities and hearing thresholds

Are you an interventionist/deaf educator? If yes, please take a moment to scan this QR code and complete the survey on your own aural diversity landscape:

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My contact Email: dlochet@miami.edu

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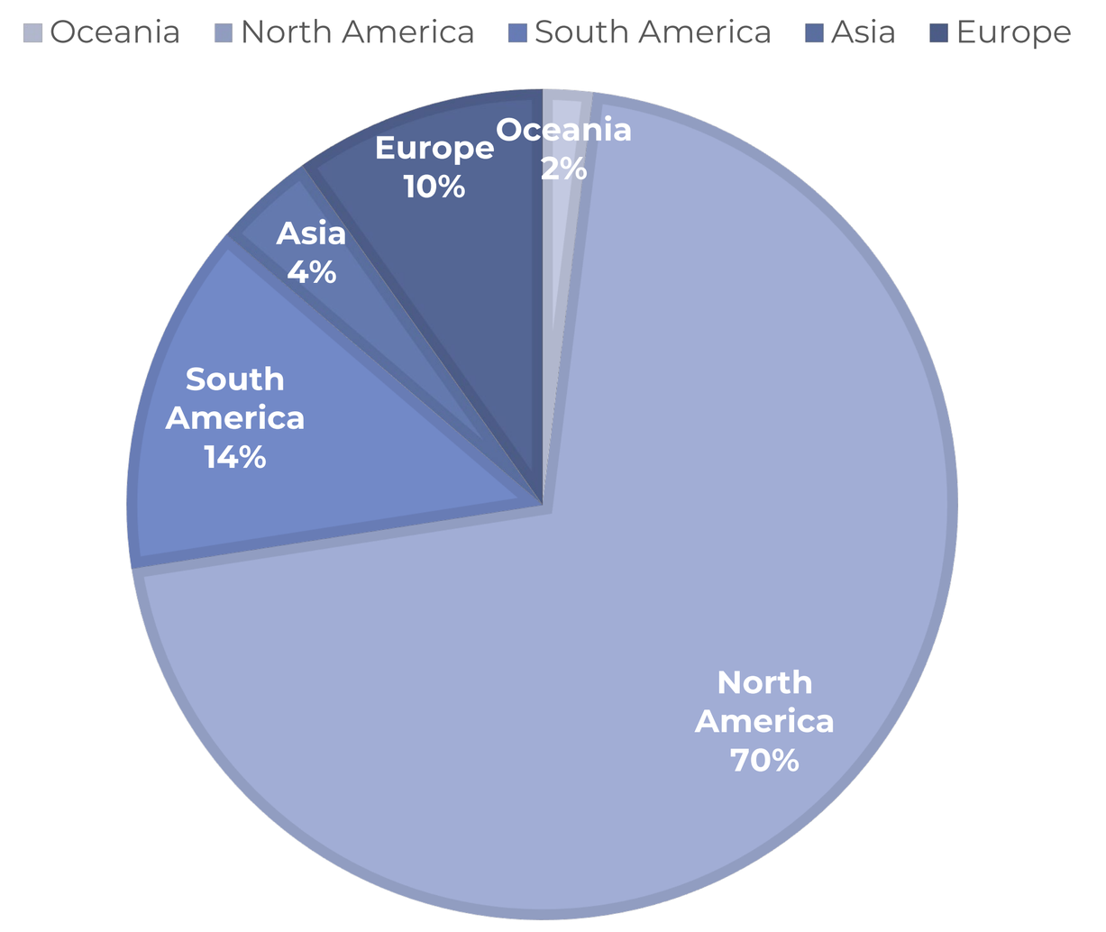
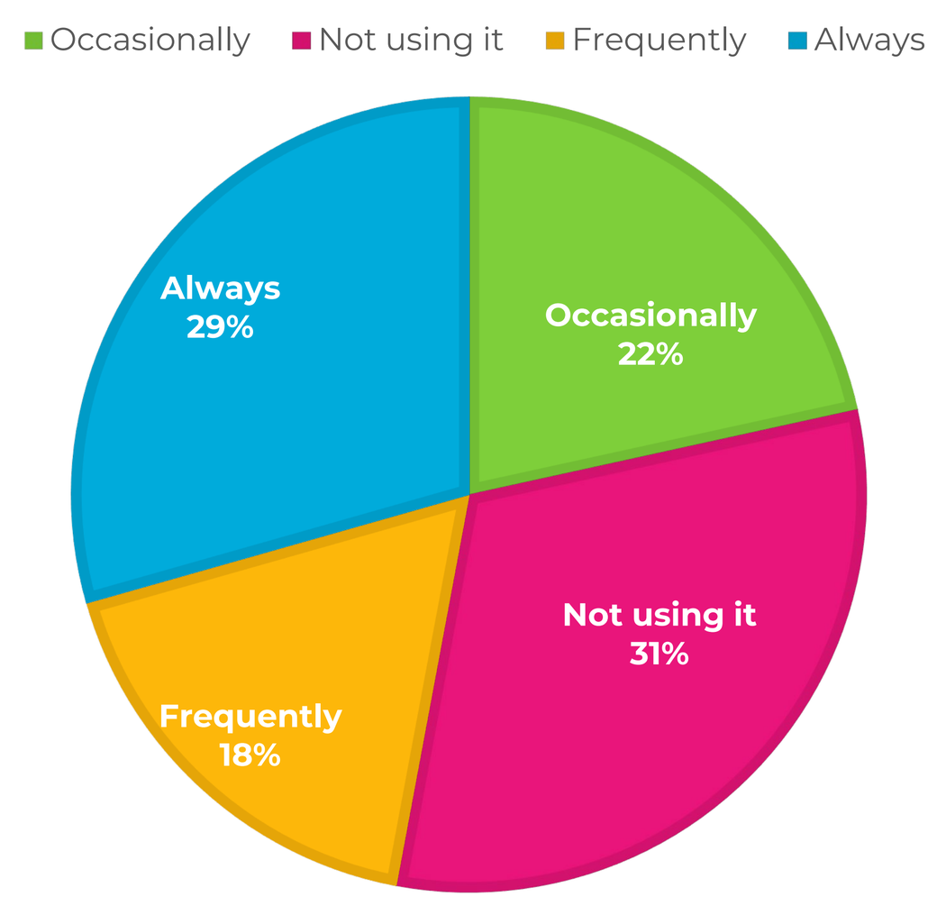
Survey results

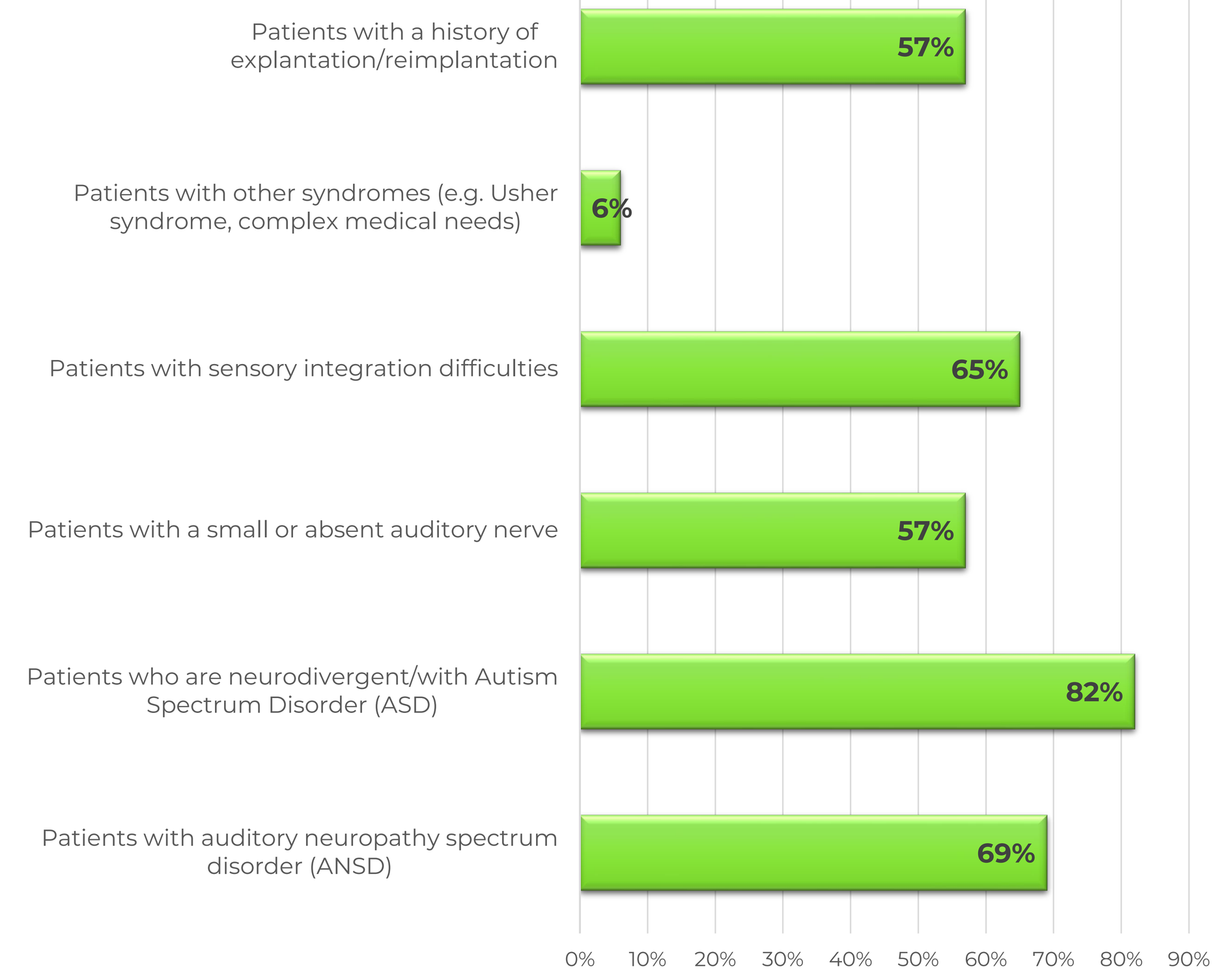
- Respondents: 51 early interventionists/speech-language pathologists or DHH teachers attending the 2024 Alexander Graham Bell Association Global Symposium
- Purpose: to learn about the aural diversity on their caseloads

Survey respondents' location and frequency of use of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC)





Percentage of providers who have patients with these characteristics:



Settings of respondents:

Other examples of aural diversity identified by respondents on their caseloads:

- Asymmetric hearing
- Stenosis of IAC
- Central auditory processing disorder
- Absence of cochlea
- Auditory brainstem implant recipients