

## Evaluation of parental satisfaction regarding early activation in the management of cochlear implant (CI) in children

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### Introduction

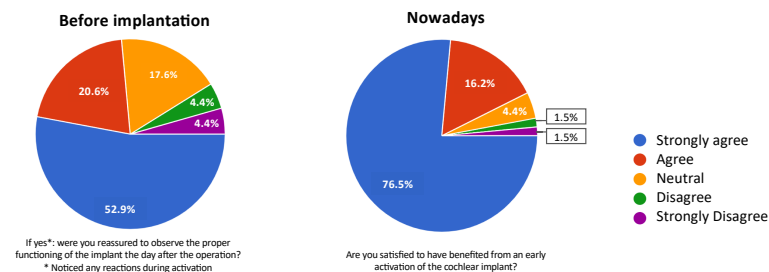
Depending on the habits of the implanting center, the time interval between the surgical procedure and the activation of the device varies greatly. Traditionally, the activation occurs several weeks after surgery, mainly due to the fear of the occurrence of a post-operative complication<sup>1</sup>. This is particularly true in the pediatric population. In line with the improvement of the surgical procedure<sup>2</sup> and the peri-operative care, early fitting constitutes the next optimization in cochlear implant management<sup>1,3,4</sup>.

Moreover, the management of CI in France is carried out in accredited centers, involving a multidisciplinary team (ear nose and throat surgeons, speech therapists, audiologists, pharmacists, etc)<sup>5</sup>. The intervention of different members of the CI team thus offers a diversity of complementary information to the patient, emphasizing the most important ones and giving precise information about the area of expertise of each protagonist

For the past 5 years, we have introduced early fitting with a Day 1 activation in Robert Debré pediatric hospital.

### Résultats

68 parents of patients completed the questionnaire: 73.5% were activated on D1 of surgery. 60.3% considered early activation as not painful for their child. 52,9% of the parents identified a reaction to auditory stimulus in their child at activation. 44% were satisfied with the visit of the clinical pharmacologist. 92.3% were satisfied with early activation and 97% with returning home with their CI activated. They felt well informed before and after the surgery. No major complication was reported amongst our patients.



### Objectifs

This study aims to evaluate :

- Parental satisfaction regarding early activation of cochlear implant with a questionnaire.
- The impact on the incidence of post-operative complications.
- The complementary adjunction of a clinical pharmacology visit in the management of parental information and stress

### Conclusion

Early activation of cochlear implant in children appears to be a safe and satisfactory procedure for pediatric patients and their parents. It requires coordinated efforts of a multidisciplinary team to obtain optimal outcome and provide appropriate information. It is associated with limited occurrence of minor complications and could therefore become the standard for activation in CI center

### Méthodes et Matériels

Pediatric patients who underwent an early activation of their cochlear implant between 2021 and 2024 in University Hospital Robert Debré were included in the study. A satisfaction questionnaire was handed out to the parents and collected during a follow-up consultation, by mail or during a phone call. The questionnaire encompassed information received before implantation and during hospital stay, the perception of early activation and after release from the hospital.

### Références

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