



Remote Support for First- and Follow-Up-Fittings of MED-EL Cochlear Implants

K. Schepers¹, J. Steinhoff², K. Bauer¹, A. Möltner⁶, S. Morettini³, T. Stark^{2,4}, R. Hagen⁵

(1) CICSüd, Stiftung Hör-Sprachförderung, Berner Straße 16, 97084 Würzburg,

(2) Klinikum rechts der Isar, Technische Universität München, HNO-Klinik TU München, Ismaninger Straße 22, 81675 München, Germany,

(3) MED-EL Elektromedizinische Geräte GmbH, Fürstenweg 77a, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria,

(4) HELIOS Klinikum München West, Steinerweg 5, 81241 München ,

(5) Klinik und Poliklinik für Hals-, Nasen- und Ohrenkrankheiten der Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Josef-Schneider-Straße 11, 97080 Würzburg,

(6) MED-EL Elektromedizinische Geräte Deutschland GmbH Moos Straße 7, D-82319 Starnberg, Deutschland.

What?

- REMOTE Programming is an extension of the fitting environment and thus of the MED-EL Cochlear Implant System
- It allows REMOTE fitting sessions (first and follow-up) using a network connection
- It is intended to:
 - be used with the MED-EL fitting software MAESTRO and CI.STUDIO+ 2.02.
 - perform REMOTE fitting sessions including telemetry/ART or other measurements from another location using a network connection.
 - be used for all MED-EL fitting sessions.
 - be used for MED-EL CI patients.
 - be used in adults and children.

Main Study Questions

REMOTE vs. LOCAL fitting:

- Difference in:
 - Mean telemetry values: IFT, MCL, THR
 - Age/skill appropriate language test scores
 - PTA
- Subjective appraisal of the sessions by:
 - Remote expert,
 - Local host,
 - Subject
- Total time needed for the fitting session

Conclusions

- Communication with children and parents is slightly more challenging
- Less video quality means less lip movement
- Reduced travel time
- For young children it feels a little bit strange
- For people who are not familiar with the children, it is difficult to make initial fittings (the first months after first fitting)



Conclusions

- Up to now, 25 children participated
- **No** significant difference in LOCAL and REMOTE fitting
 - In the MCL's values
 - In the THR's values
 - In the audiometry
 - In the time duration
- Patients are satisfied with the fitting (questionnaire)
- The results (with patients in this target group) are showing, that:
 - => REMOTE fitting, is as good as a LOCAL fitting**