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

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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.
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
  o In the MCL’s values
  o In the THR’s values
  o In the audiometry
  o 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