



# Focusing on Positive Listening Experiences Improves Hearing Aid Satisfaction in Experienced Hearing Aid Users

Dina Lelic<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Parker<sup>1</sup>, Petra Herrlin<sup>2</sup>, Florian Wolters<sup>2</sup>, Karolina Smeds<sup>2</sup>

1. WS Audiology, Lynge, Denmark; 2. ORCA Europe, WS Audiology, Stockholm, Sweden

WSAudiology

ORCA Europe

## INTRODUCTION

When encouraged to focus on positive listening experiences, hearing aid (HA) users are potentially more likely to realize in which situations HAs truly help them and consequently appreciate their HAs more. These benefits can be overshadowed by difficult experiences, which can negatively influence the person's overall HA satisfaction.

## AIM

In this study, we investigated whether focusing on positive listening experiences increases hearing aid satisfaction in experienced HA users.

## MATERIAL & METHOD

Eleven experienced HA users were randomized to the "positive focus" group and ten to the "control" group. The two groups were balanced on baseline measures. The study duration was one month which included a one-week baseline period, three-week post HA fitting period and two laboratory visits. The study flow is depicted in in Figure 1.

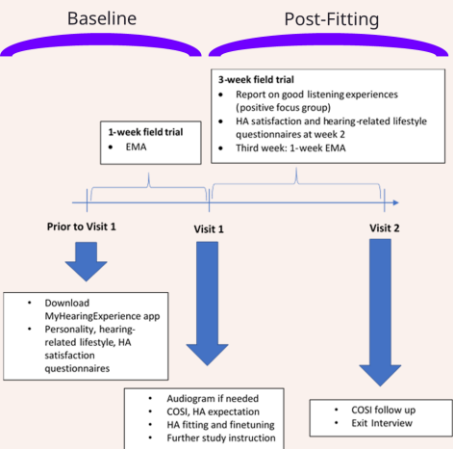


Figure 1. The study flow.

## RESULTS

The participants in the "positive focus" group submitted on average 38 positive reports (range: 11-75) during the three weeks. When comparing the post-fitting IOI-HA scores, the "positive focus" group scored significantly higher. The satisfaction scores in hearing-related lifestyle and EMA questionnaires were also significantly higher in the "positive focus" group. The COSI degree of improvement and final ability, as measured at the second visit, were higher in the "positive focus" group. The number of submitted positive reports was correlated with the COSI degree of improvement score ( $r=0.61$ ).

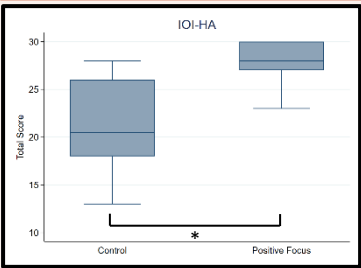


Figure 3. EMA results during week 3 after fitting

\*\*  $P < 0.01$

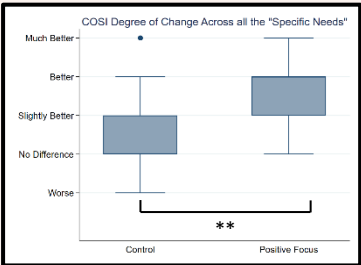
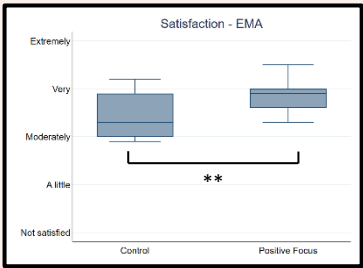


Figure 4. COSI degree of change @ week 3 after fitting

\*\*  $P < 0.01$

## CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study point to the importance of asking HA users to focus on positive listening experiences and talk about them. The potential outcome is increased satisfaction and experienced improvement with HAs, consequently leading to more consistent use of the devices.