

TITLE

Self-Efficacy, Communication Difficulties and Readiness Predict Outcomes in New Hearing Aid Users

AUTHORS & AFFILIATIONS

Melanie Ferguson^{1,2}, David Maidment¹

¹ NIHR Nottingham Hearing Biomedical Research Unit, Division of Clinical Neuroscience, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

² Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham, UK

ABSTRACT (150 words max.)

Poor knowledge of hearing aids (HAs) may help to explain low adherence in older adults with hearing loss. To address this, a multimedia education program for first-time HA users was developed based on the concept of reusable learning objects (RLOs). The effectiveness of the RLOs was examined using a prospective, randomized controlled trial with two arms: (i) HAs plus RLOs (RLO+, n=103), (ii) HAs only (RLO-, n=100). Users of the RLOs had better knowledge of HAs and HA handling skills six-weeks post-fitting, and greater HA use in suboptimal users. To better understand the factors that contributed to the benefits observed, further analyses were performed and revealed that greater self-efficacy at HA fitting predicted greater use in both groups (RLO+, $\beta=8.07$, $p=.005$; RLO-, $\beta=1.08$, $p<.001$). However, the RLOs appeared to elevate the impact of communication difficulties and readiness on HA outcomes, because these factors were predictive in the RLO- group only.