Auditory Implant Service

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service Activity Report 2013/14

University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service (USAIS) provides services to hearing impaired patients in the South of England. This report is for the period ending 31 March 2014. USAIS receives referrals for assessment for consideration of cochlear implants, bone anchored hearing aids, bone conduction and middle ear implants from Audiology and ENT specialists.

Cochlear implant referrals

150

Children wearing their cochlear implant often

100%

Patients who would be extremely likely to recommend the service

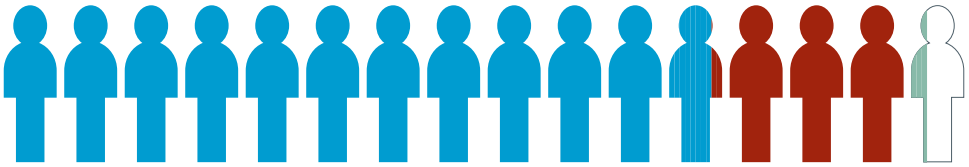
90%

Patient details

Referrals

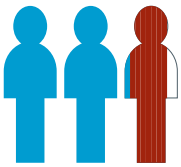
97% of referrals for Cochlear Implant Assessment were acknowledged within 5 working days. 94% of patients referred for a cochlear implant assessment were offered an appointment within 6 weeks. USAIS is working towards 100% for both measurements. Failures to meet the target occurred during the first quarter of the year.

Referrals



Key

Referrals and Transfers to Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA) programme



Discharges

49 patients referred for cochlear implant assessment were discharged prior to cochlear implantation in 2013/4. The reasons for discharge were: 23 of the patients were audiologically not within NICE TAG 166; 2 patients had difficulty attending appointments and 16 patients decided not to proceed for reasons including investigating alternative treatment and concerns regarding surgery.

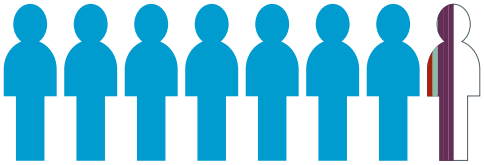
Transferred patients

During the year 2013/4, 13 patients were transferred into USAIS who had already been implanted with a cochlear implant prior to referral. 5 patients transferred from USAIS to other implant centres and 7 patients died.

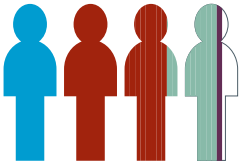
Pathway from team decision to operation

USAIS monitors the 18 week care pathway from the date of the multidisciplinary team decision that the patient would benefit from a cochlear implant. After taking account for "stop the clock" events such as delay for additional treatment, due to patient preference, or for funding approval, 100% of the CI referrals were implanted within the 18 week care pathway specified. The average time from Team Decision (or fit for surgery/patient preference) to implant was 4 weeks.

New Cochlear Implants

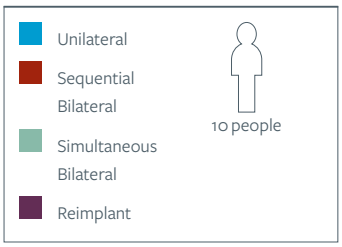


Adults



Children

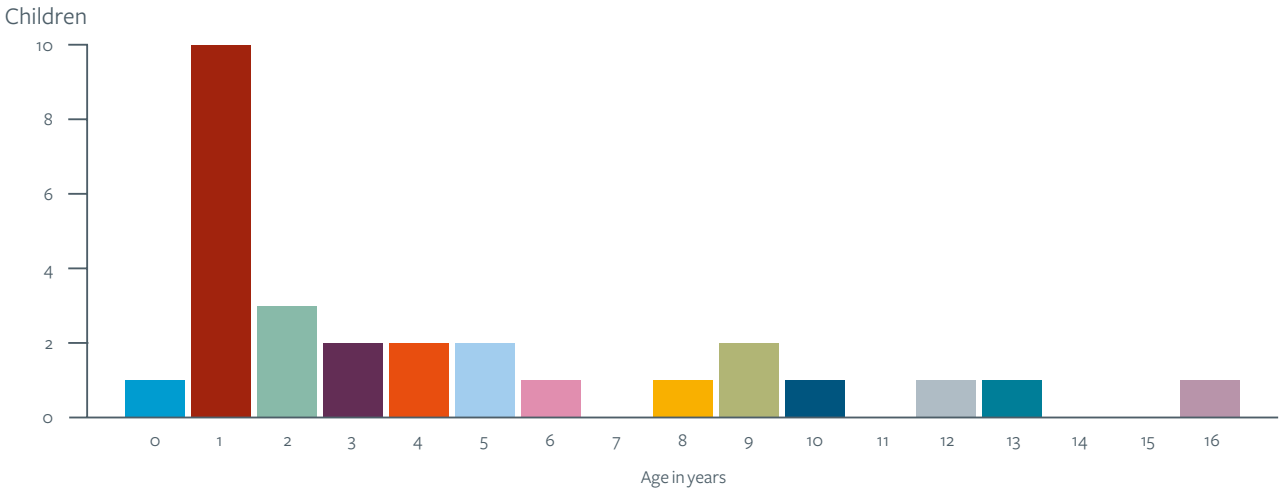
Key

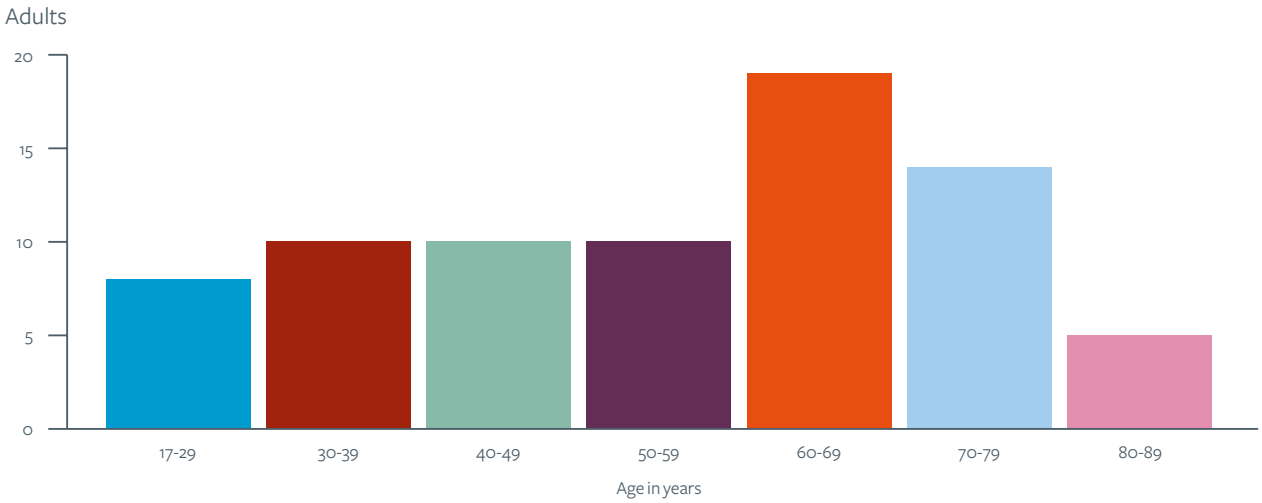


USAIS treats patients of all ages

Age at Implant

USAIS treats patients of all ages. As the graph below shows, patients of all ages received implants during the year 2013/4. It should be noted that most children are implanted in their second year and most adults are implanted between 60 and 69 years of age.





Failures, Re-implantations and Non-users

In the year 2013/4, 3 patients from USAIS had their cochlear implants removed due to device problems and all were subsequently re-implanted in the same ear. In addition 1 patient had their device removed for medical reasons. There was one revision of a device. There are 24 patients who are no longer able to make use of their cochlear implants who have not had their implants removed.

Patients with Cochlear Implants

Patients with cochlear implants need access to a maintenance programme. Patients have regular reviews to ensure that the cochlear implants are continuing to function optimally.

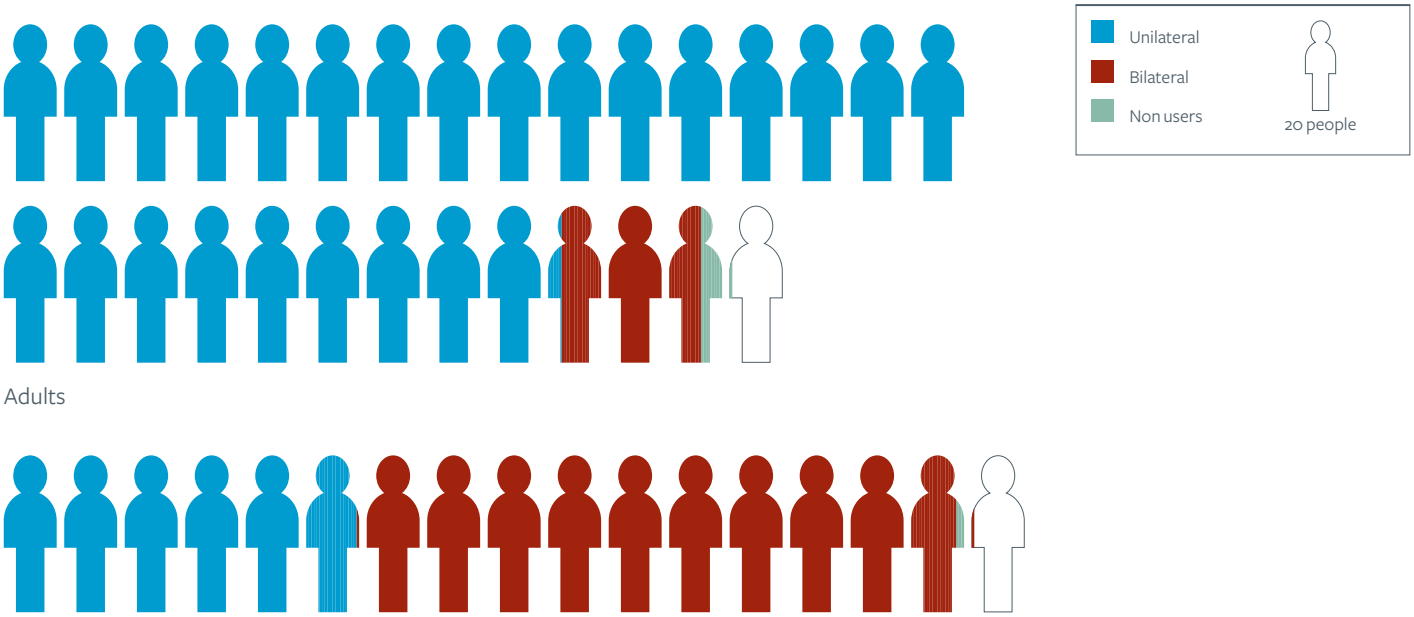
Contralateral Implants

In total, 5 children that had already been implanted previously had contralateral implants to enable hearing in both ears.

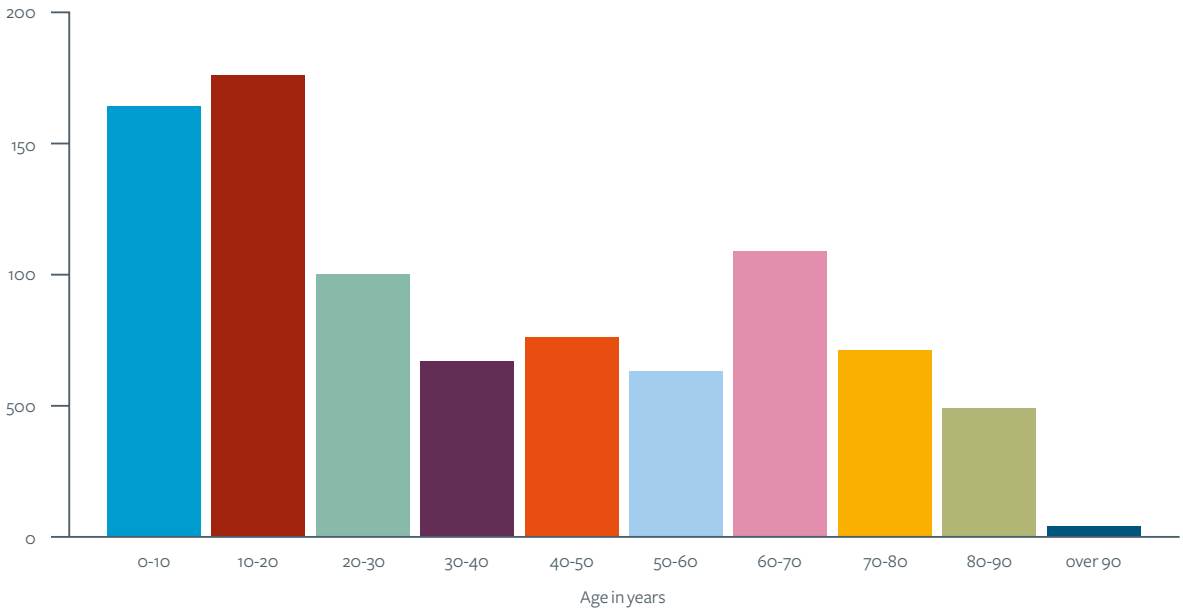
Upgrades

USAIS has a policy of upgrading processors every five years (if there is a new model available). Over the past year USAIS has been able to upgrade 92 patients with the latest technology available for their implant.

Cochlear Implant maintenance



Age of Cochlear Implant users

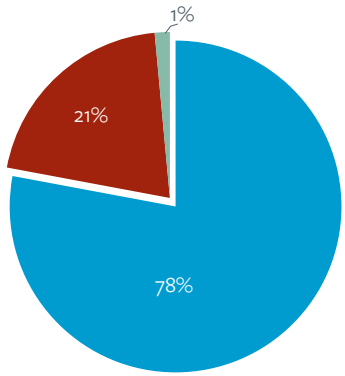


Key Service Outcomes

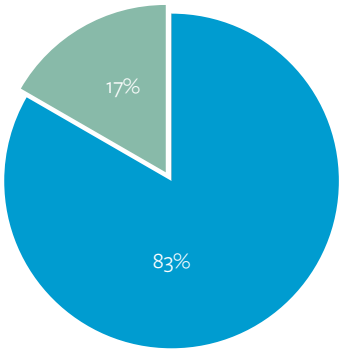
The outcomes of Cochlear Implant patients are measured at the 12 month review. The following graphs represent the outcomes.

Listening

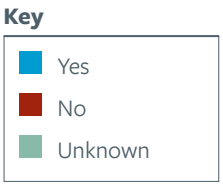
More than 80% of all patients to have thresholds of 40 dBHL or better in implanted ears. USAIS met this target for children but for the adults some were not achieving this. Those that did not achieve this level were either congenitally deaf, had other special needs or in the case of one patient, a failing device which will be explanted and reimplanted.



Adult
Aided levels – 40dB(HL) or better



Children
Aided levels – 40dB(HL) or better

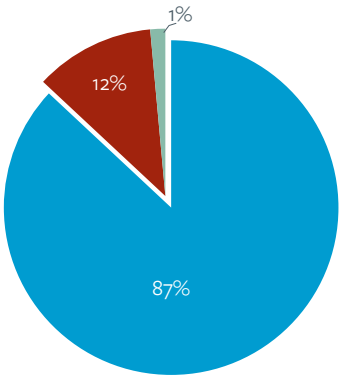


Improvement in Speech Perception and Quality of Life

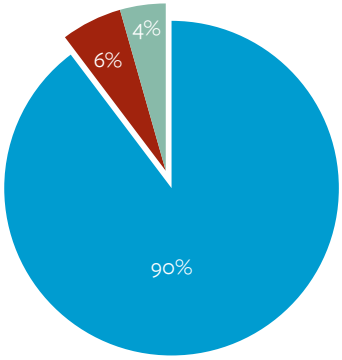
It is expected that cochlear implants will help with speech perception and lead to improved quality of life.

All of the children (n=18) had an improvement in their listening and use of speech but many are too young for formal testing.

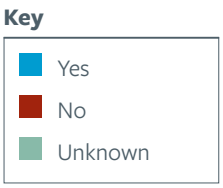
The adults that did not show benefit were unable to carry out the test because it was not suitable for their language ability because English was not their first language; they were congenitally deaf or had additional special needs. In the experience of USAIS it can take up to 3 years before a congenitally deaf adult reaches their full auditory potential.



Adult
Improved speech perception



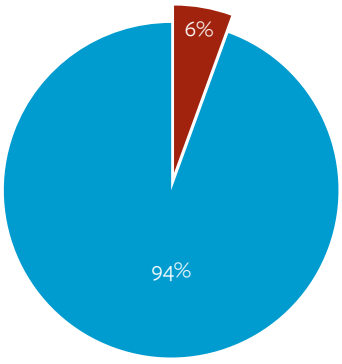
Adult
Improved quality of life



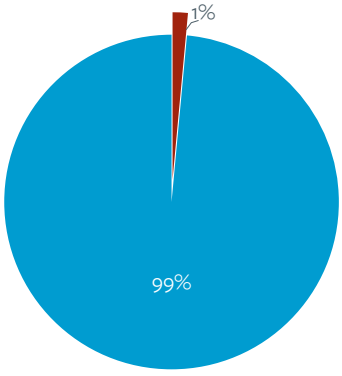
100% of children wore their processor 'often' or 'always'.

User Satisfaction and Benefit

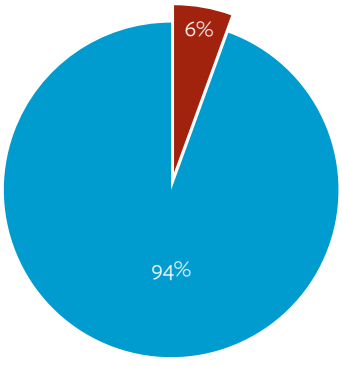
For this Key Service Outcome the standard was 90%. As can be seen below USAIS met this target.



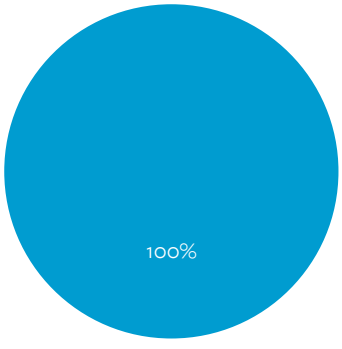
Adult
Benefiting a lot or a great deal



Adult
Wearing often or always



Children
Benefiting a lot or a great deal



Children
Wearing often or always

Key

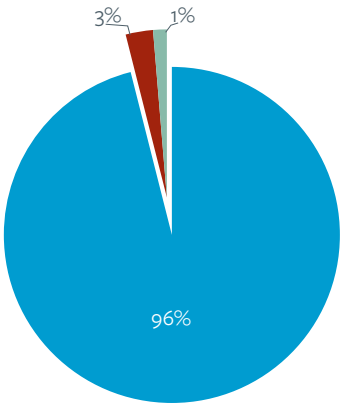
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

Audits

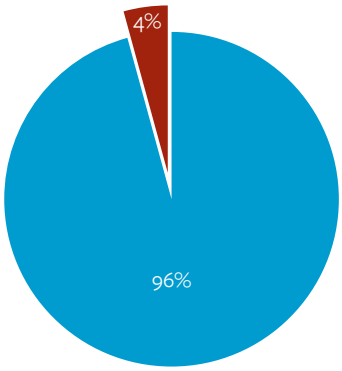
Patient Survey

Patients attending a review at USAIS are asked to complete a patient survey to enable USAIS to review the quality of the service provided. The Friends and Family Test was initially used and the results are shown below. 90% of the patients attending for review would be extremely likely to recommend USAIS to their family and friends.

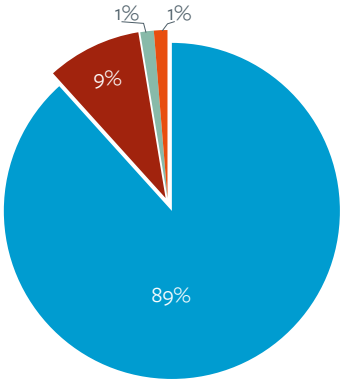
How likely are you to recommend USAIS?



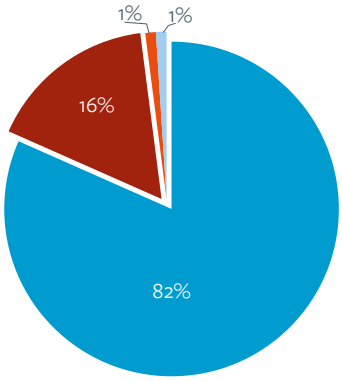
Quarter 1



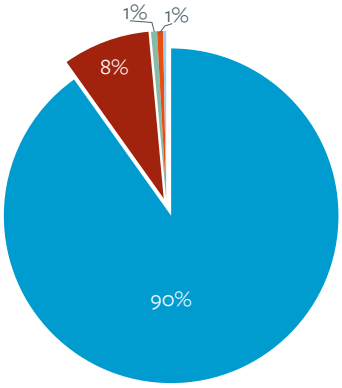
Quarter 2



Quarter 3



Quarter 4



Annual

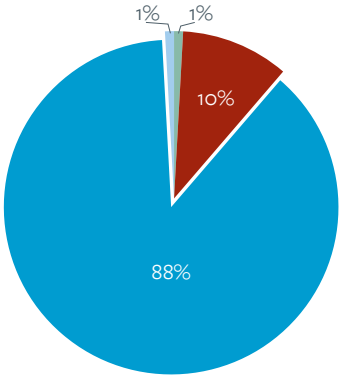
Key

- Extremely likely
- Likely
- Neither
- Unlikely
- Extremely unlikely
- Don't know

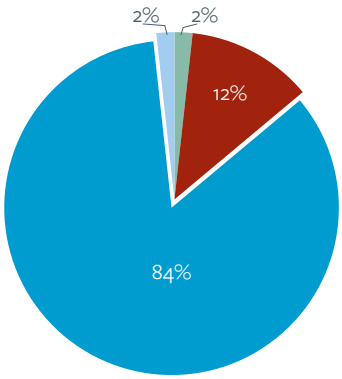
This is a visual representation of all the comments received on the patient survey. The larger a word appears, the more that word was used in the comments.

Additional Questions

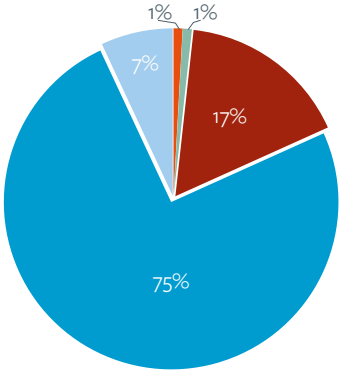
In quarter 4 some additional questions were asked giving USAIS further feedback about the service provided.



Do the Auditory Implant Service staff treat you with dignity and respect?



Do the Auditory Implant Service staff work well together?



Are you involved in decisions about your care/your child's care?

Key

- Always
- Usually
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never
- No response given

Summary

Data presented in this report show a high level of service provision and user satisfaction. USAIS continues to work to exceed required standards and develop the service to optimise benefit to patients and their families.

Contact us

Please feel free to contact us for further information.
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