BIAP recommendation n° 06/3 : Auricular coupling in hearing aids

1. Definition

1.1.The term " auricular couplings in hearing aids " should be understood as the various elements which connect the hearing aid to the external ear.

Auricular couplings are used in order to:

1.1.1. steady the device in/on the external ear.

1.1.2. ensure the transmission of amplified acoustic signals and avoid sound nteractions between the earphone and microphone of the hearing aid (Larsen effect or acoustic feedback)

1.1.3. if necessary, by using ventings of adapted shapes and dimensions:

a) modify the device response curve

b) balance the pressures exerted on the eardrum

c) ensure a correct ventilation of the external auditory meatus

1.2. They usually include:

1.2.1. for the outline of the ear

. a bend

. an acoustic connection tube

. an auricular tip

1.2.2. for eyeglass hearing aids

. an acoustic connection tube

. an auricular tip

1.2.3. for intra-auricular devices

. the shell

1.2.4. for pocket devices

. an auricular tip

. sometimes an acoustic connection tube

Remark: For osseus conduction devices, the transmission of acoustic signals from the vibrator to the mastoid process can be enhanced by using a moulded support plate, adapted to the subject's morphology.

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