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# Youth-Oriented Adaptation of the Speech, Spatial and Hearing Quality Scale (SSQ) for Children with Cochlear Implants

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**Abstract**

The Speech, Spatial, and Hearing Quality Scale (SSQ) have been a valuable tool in assessing the subjective experiences of individuals with hearing loss, particularly in adult populations. However, its applicability to children with cochlear implants has been limited due to differences in cognitive development, language skills, and auditory experiences. To address this gap, researchers have developed a youth-oriented adaptation of the SSQ specifically tailored for children with cochlear implants. This adaptation aims to capture the unique speech, spatial, and hearing experiences of children with cochlear implants, providing valuable insights into their auditory functioning and quality of life. This article explores the development, application, and implications of the pediatric SSQ in evaluating the outcomes of cochlear implantation in children. Through a systematic review of the adaptation process, validation studies, and clinical applications, we highlight the importance of the pediatric SSQ in guiding intervention planning, monitoring progress, and promoting family-centered care. The pediatric SSQ represents a significant advancement in the assessment of pediatric cochlear implantation outcomes, with implications for both clinical practice and research. Continued research efforts are needed to further refine and validate the pediatric SSQ, ensuring its utility and effectiveness in assessing the speech, spatial, and hearing experiences of children with cochlear implants.

**Keywords:** Pediatric Cochlear Implants; Youth-Oriented Adaptation; Auditory Functioning; Quality of Life

## Introduction

Cochlear implants (CIs) have transformed the landscape of auditory rehabilitation for children with severe to profound hearing loss, providing them with access to sound and facilitating speech and language development [1]. However, assessing the effectiveness of cochlear implantation in pediatric populations poses unique challenges due to the dynamic nature of childhood auditory experiences and the developmental differences compared to adults. Traditional outcome

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## D SSQ

e development of the pediatric SSQ involved a rigorous process of adaptation and validation to ensure its relevance, reliability, and validity in assessing the speech, spatial, and hearing experiences of children with cochlear implants. Key steps in the development process included:

**L :** Reviewing existing literature on pediatric cochlear implantation, auditory development, and outcome measures to inform the adaptation process.

**E :** Consulting with experts in pediatric audiology, speech-language pathology, and cochlear implantation to identify relevant domains and items for inclusion in the pediatric SSQ.

**P :** Conducting pilot testing with a sample of children