

Beyond Hearing: Exploring the Impact of Congenital Unilateral Hearing Loss in School-Age Children

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Universal newborn hearing screening has led to an increase in the identification of children with congenital unilateral hearing loss. This increase has brought a focus on exploring the impact of early-identified unilateral hearing loss on children's language and other outcomes, as well as the potential clinical management for these children. Recent studies indicate inconsistent results regarding the impact of UHL on children's outcomes. This presentation will build on current literature to explore a range of outcomes for a group of school-age children with congenital UHL, including speech, language, functional performance, psychosocial skills, and quality-of-life outcomes. It will also discuss the potential association between children's outcomes and a set of predictor variables.

Biography

Dr. Zhang is a senior researcher and project lead of the existing project "Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss" at the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL). She is also an honorary research fellow in the Linguistics Department at Macquarie University. Her main research focuses on investigating the efficacy of early intervention for children with hearing loss and developing objective and subjective tools to evaluate communication outcomes for people with hearing loss. Dr. Zhang is also passionate about exploring the applications of telehealth and AI technology in the field of audiology.