A Simple Bilateral Cochlear Implant Head Band Retainer
David Foyt, M.D.¹, Nora Perkins, M.D.², Sharon Rende, Au.D.
Northeast Ear Institute, Albany, New York
¹. Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery (Otolaryngology / Neurosurgery), Albany Medical College, Albany, New York
². Department of Surgery – Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Albany Medical College, Albany, New York

Abstract

Introduction: Active children with bilateral cochlear implants often dislocate their external devices during play, posing a distinct challenge to the auditory rehabilitation team. We have developed a simple and inexpensive cochlear implant headband retainer to alleviate this often frustrating problem.

Methods: A headband was constructed from a rigid music earphone band after the earphones and all wires were removed. The implant battery compartment was attached with rubber elastic bands.

Results: Headband retainers successfully maintained external implant device position on children with bilateral implants while at play and during daily activities.

Conclusion: This band cochlear implant retainer is a simple, effective and affordable technique to maintain the position of the external components of single and bilateral cochlear implants on our active children.

Introduction

Bilateral cochlear implantation in children poses several challenges to the auditory rehabilitation team. One problem encountered at our center is the securing of both implants on very active children. Many of our active children dislocate their external devices during play. We have developed a simple and inexpensive cochlear implant headband retainer.

Methods and Materials

The headband is constructed from any music earphone that has a rigid band. The earphones and all wires are removed from the headband. The implant battery compartment is attached with rubber elastic bands.

Conclusions

This band cochlear implant retainer can be easily constructed at a minimal cost to the patient and center. This technique has proven to be very effective in maintaining single and bilateral cochlear implants on our active children.

Bibliography