Safeguards and patient satisfaction with Lyric® hearing aids

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table 1. lyric devices compared with prior conventional hearing aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Slightly superior</th>
<th>Compete</th>
<th>Slightly inferior</th>
<th>Inferior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyric</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Lyric in a canal

Figure 2. Lyric devices

In the group of 64 patients who failed within the first 4 weeks most had profound hearing loss with little residual bone conduction. All were pain free at initial insertion and occasionally daily pain. The pain abated with removal of the device generally within an hour. Alkaline button batteries spontaneously within 5 days. There were no cases of diffuse canal circumferential edema and erythema as seen with otitis externa. Rarely fluid would develop medial to the device and lateral to the tympanic membrane causing the device to fail but not causing any patient mortality. Similar to the patients who developed pain after 4 weeks, the pain abated quickly after removal of the device and the skin healed within a few days.

Patients who currently rated lyric hearing devices as superior to their prior hearing aid. In separate questions they specifically rated their lyric hearing devices as superior compared to their prior conventional hearing aid and use and cosmetic appearance. The continued follow-up of device replacement is further evidence of the patient preference.

Lyric hearing aids were cleared by the FDA in 2002. Lyric hearing aids represent a significant change in the pattern of hearing aid utilization. Because they are worn for months at a time the possibility of canal, tympanic membrane and middle ear hearing loss would be a cause for concern. Most canal, tympanic membrane, and middle ear injuries associated with hearing aids have been associated with the process of making a fit. These complications are related to retained molding material.[2] The mild severe complications are associated with the use of the canal or ear canal pressure. Additionally hearing aids in patients with a history of radiation can result in osteoradionecrosis.[3] We refrained from fitting any patients who had a history of any prior local irradiation. Diabetic and immunocompromised patients were also excluded from fitting. Patients were instructed to discontinue use of the Lyric hearing device if redness, pain, fever, or purulent drainage or bluish discharge was noted in their ears or anti-coagulation medications. We did not have any patients with an exposed battery in the ear canal and also did not find any patients with tissue necrosis.

REFERENCES


