Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of the benefits of cochlear implantation versus contra-lateral routing of signal hearing aids in adult patients with single-sided deafness: study protocol for a prospective within-subject longitudinal trial

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Reviewer: Katrien Vermeire

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, this paper "comparison of the benefits of cochlear implantation versus contra-lateral routing of signal hearing aids in adult patients with single-sided deafness: study protocol for a prospective within-subject longitudinal trial” describes trial to compare the benefits of cochlear implantation and CROS hearing aids in SSD patients.

Overall, there is nothing structurally wrong with the trial or the paper but I do wonder what is so excitingly new about this trial compared to what has already been done in the study by Arndt et al (2009).

The study as it is designed as such may have one important flaw, and that is the way that the normal hearing ear is occluded. The paper doesn’t say how the speech is presented (FF or via headphones), but I suspect in FF, but it says that speech is presented at 70dB. A combination of an earplug and a circumaural muffler would only give you a masking of about 40dB max., which will mean the good hearing ear will still hear 30dB if you present speech at 70dB. If I am getting this wrong, please explain better in the paper.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests