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

Version: 3 Date: 26 June 2014

Reviewer: Katrien Vermeire

Reviewer’s report:

The new version of the manuscript makes a lot more sense to me now, as before I didn't even see that it was a proposal for a study-protocol, and not yet a finished study. I only got that while already half way through the paper.

The authors have taken my concerns seriously, and have incorporated it into the paper and/or the study design.

1. The biggest concern I still have is the evaluation time after cochlear implantation. They say the follow-up period will be 9 months. There have been several groups who have reported (unfortunately not published yet) that development of these binaural benefits take a lot longer to develop in these SSD patients than in "regular" bimodal/bilateral CI-patients. So I am not entirely sure if 9 months is going to be enough. On the other hand, I do understand that this is a study designed to weigh the advantages of CI in SSD compared to CROS, to convince the NHS, so you can't wait forever.

2. So if I get it correct, only those patients showing no benefit for CROS will be considered for implantation? That wasn't clear from 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