

## Hearing Loss in Unilateral Cleft Lip and Palate

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**Background:** Hearing loss associated with otitis media with effusion is usually finding in cleft lip and palate children. Severity of hearing loss (HL) is related to severity of structural defects in different cleft types.

**Objectives:** To found out if difference of the structural defect of cleft vs. non cleft side is accompanied with difference of HL in dependence of ear side and age.

**Method:** Study group included 101 children with repaired unilateral cleft lip and palate (UCLP); 27 right and 74 left sided, 33 girls and 68 boys, mean age of 6 years for both groups. By the help of tonal audiometry median hearing threshold (MHL) at 500, 1000, 2000, 4000Hz and average hearing loss across speech frequencies (AHL) compared for age subgroups 1-3y, 4-7, 8-12y.

**Results:** UCLP is more often in males (n=68 or 67%), than females (n=33 or 33%). Age of 1-3yr showed highest rate of ears HL. At age 4-7 (left) cleft side ears showed highest AHL than non cleft side ears. MHL was higher at 500Hz, 1000Hz. Right ears showed significant improvement of AHL until 7yr. across tested frequencies while left (cleft) side showed delay in improvement of MHL and AHL until 12yr. which were prominent mostly for 500Hz, 1000Hz.

**Conclusion:** Cleft side ears vs. none cleft side ears, showed higher severity of hearing loss in dependence with audiometric frequencies and aging.

**Key words:** hearing, cleft palate

### Biography:

Jadranka Handžić graduated at Medical School University of Zagreb, took Master degree at 1987y. and PhD at 1989y. Residential program of Otolaryngology finished 1989 yr. sub-specialist of Audiologist 2003yr. At 2000-2001 she spent academic year on Fulbright Scholarship at Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Centre and Dental School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital Pittsburgh U.S.A at position as Adjunct Associate Professor of Oral Medicine. 2001-2002 she had Lester Hamburg- Research Fellowship in Department for Paediatric Otolaryngology Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Medical School University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A. From 2002 she was Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology and from 2008 Professor of Otolaryngology and Audiology.