

PRESENT STATUS OF HEARING ELECTRICAL ACTIVATION.

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Since Graham Bell, deafness improvement depends on electrical activation, which successively provided external ear, then inner ear, and recently ossicular chain in the middle ear with sound frequency information, as a function of progress in electrical management and transducers miniaturization.

Presently 3 types of auditory prosthesis are available:

1- external (or conventional) hearing aids, which selectively amplify the sound different frequency bands of the auditory canal air column;

2-cochlear implants, which supply the different frequency parts of the cochlear keyboard with specific electrical stimulation, depending of each frequency bands of the sound;

3- middle ear implants, which directly mobilize the ossicular chain using an implanted miniaturized vibrator.

To-day the respective indications of these 3 prostheses clearly depend on the deafness parameters. The next future device will probably be the marriage of middle ear and cochlear implants.

This poster reflects the thirty years author's experience in surgical and electronic deafness management.

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