



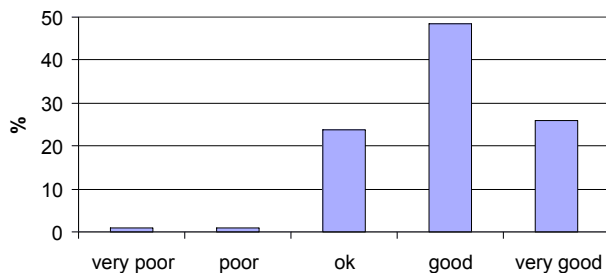
The Savia multi-national field trial

Beginning in early December 2004, extensive Savia fittings have been conducted to evaluate the performance of iPFG and Savia under real-life conditions. In total, 180 clients have been fit at 46 sites in Austria, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Switzerland and the US. The trial included an initial fitting appointment and 1-2 follow up appointments. Questionnaires were used to collect systematic feedback on sound quality, speech intelligibility, feedback, handling and other topics. In addition, real-ear measurements and speech tests were conducted at selected sites. All available Savia models were used in the trial. About 40% of all fittings were with ITEs. The age range of the subjects was from 6-89 years (average: 66). Twenty percent of the test subjects had no previous amplification experience.

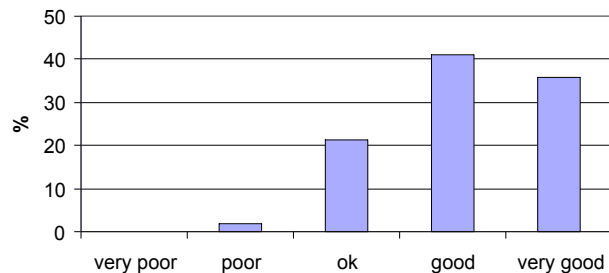
Results

Spontaneous acceptance, perceived sound quality and speech understanding were consistently rated positive. Initially, 88% of all subjects described the sound as being "natural". The sound quality ratings even improved after experience in daily life. Only a small amount of fine tuning was needed, if at all. The loudness ratings were balanced and "ok" for most clients. There were only a few feedback issues, and the general observation was that Savia is less susceptible to feedback than other first-class hearing instruments. Initial feedback occurred in 15% of the fittings. It was transient and only present, for example, when inserting the instruments or during jaw movements. In all cases, it was resolved by running the Feedback Test and/or activating the Feedback Phase Inverter. Ninety-eight percent of all subjects reported that there is no audible internal noise. One subject even complained about the lack of internal noise because his tinnitus was not masked anymore. The overall impression of the hearing care professionals in terms of initial acceptance and fine tuning effort was also very positive.

Initial Sound Quality



Sound Quality after Experience



Speech understanding

