

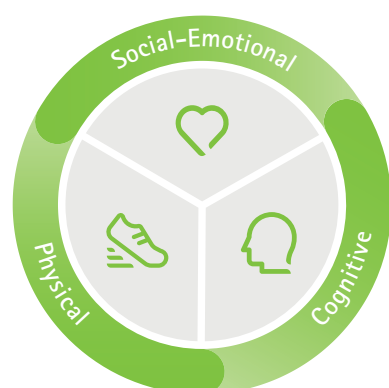
Audiological approaches to address the psychosocial needs of adults with hearing loss: perceived benefit and likelihood of use¹

Psychosocial impacts of hearing loss include feelings of...

- isolation
- loneliness
- inferiority
- embarrassment



Low levels of psychosocial well-being can have a **detrimental effect** on health including **cardiovascular disease** and **increased mortality**.



Audiologists play a role in addressing the impact of hearing loss on psychosocial function.

Study by Bennett et al.¹



To examine the utilisation and perceived benefit of clinical approaches grouped in 7 themes² and aimed at addressing the psychosocial needs of adults with hearing loss:

- Including communication partners
- Promoting client responsibility
- Strategies & training to personalize rehab program
- Facilitating peer and other professional support
- Improving social engagement with technology
- Providing emotional support
- Client empowerment

Online survey:

19 audiologists & **52** adults with hearing loss



Subjective rating of the different approaches:

- ▶ Perceived benefit
- ▶ Likelihood of using an approach



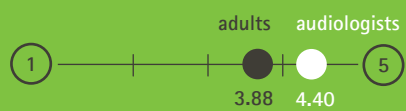
Highest rated themes



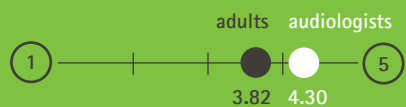
Providing emotional support

Supporting clients emotionally during audiology consultations

Perceived benefit



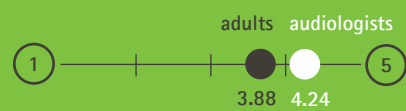
Likelihood to use



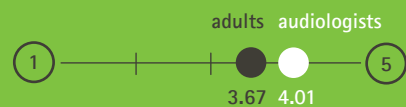
Promoting client responsibility

Making clients aware that rehabilitation outcomes largely depend on their active involvement and commitment

Perceived benefit



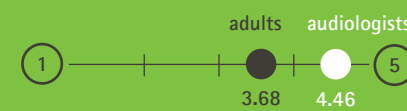
Likelihood to use



Client empowerment

Helping clients discover personal strengths and capacities to take control of their lives

Perceived benefit



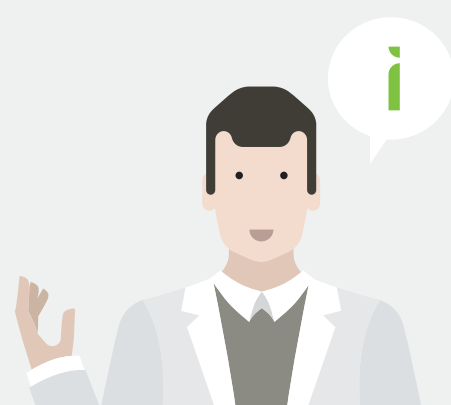
Likelihood to use



- ▶ Both adults with hearing loss and audiologists rated the different approaches rather positively (all mean scores ≥ 3).
- ▶ For both groups, there was a trend to generally rate perceived benefit higher than likelihood of use.
- ▶ For both groups, the reported value of internal-based approaches (own emotional response, empowerment, responsibility) was greater than that of external-based approaches (support by communication partners, support groups, etc.).

Considerations for Practice

The current study provides further justification for including **psychosocial interventions training** in audiology education and **continued professional development** opportunities for audiologists.



The content of this infographic is based on:

¹ Rebecca J. Bennett, Caitlin Barr, Alex Cortis, Robert H. Eikelboom, Melanie Ferguson, Daniel Gerace, Eithne Heffernan, Louise Hickson, Lisette van Leeuwen, Joseph Montano, Jill E. Preminger, Marieke Pronk, Gabrielle H. Saunders, Gurjit Singh, Barbra H. B. Timmer, Barbara Weinstein & Sandra Bellekom (2020a). Audiological approaches to address the psychosocial needs of adults with hearing loss: perceived benefit and likelihood of use, *International Journal of Audiology*, DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2020.1839680

² Rebecca J. Bennett, Caitlin Barr, Joseph Montano, Robert H. Eikelboom, Gabrielle H. Saunders, Marieke Pronk, Jill E. Preminger, Melanie Ferguson, Barbara Weinstein, Eithne Heffernan, Lisette van Leeuwen, Louise Hickson, Barbra H. B. Timmer, Gurjit Singh, Daniel Gerace, Alex Cortis & Sandra R. Bellekom (2020b) Identifying the approaches used by audiologists to address the psychosocial needs of their adult clients, *International Journal of Audiology*, DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2020.1817995