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Binaural hearing abilities of bilaterally fitted hearing aid users
assessed using objective and subjective outcome measures

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Aided spatial hearing in the hearing impaired remains a rather sparsely explored topic. Therefore we do not know enough about the ability of the hearing impaired to exploit auditory cues for spatial hearing. In an attempt to advance our knowledge the following experiment was set up. A group of 21 experienced hearing aid users took part in a test using modern completely in the canal hearing aids in the field for at least 7 weeks. After acclimatization to the devices they were tested on a number of outcome measures. These included spatial unmasking, an interview administered selection of questions from the Speech Spatial and Qualities of hearing scale, and a baseline speech in noise measure. Spatial unmasking was assessed using three concurrent female talkers, with the target talker always presented directly ahead and the maskers presented either at +/- 50 degrees or both at 180 degrees.

This presentation will provide results from the study described above along with possible relations to auditory and non-auditory predictors of spatial hearing performance.