ACOUSTICS2008/2873 Acoustical frequency discrimination and pitch matching in bimodal and hybrid hearing

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Frequency discrimination and pitch matching of implantees using combined electric and acoustic stimulation in either the same ear (EAS) or the opposite ear (bimodal condition) was assessed by means of adaptive procedures. EAS patients received either the MED-EL standard electrode or the recently introduced FLEX design with reduced diameter. Acoustic JNDF in EAS patients ranged from close to normal to grossly abnormal compared to a group of matched SNHL listeners. The median JNDF was 7.1% in the SNHL and 7.5% in the EAS group. There was no statistically significant difference in terms of JNDF between both groups of listeners. Frequency mapping was studied by means of an adjustment method where subjects were instructed to control the pitch of an acoustically presented sinusoid in reference to electrical stimulation. The findings demonstrate that the insertion of an intra-cochlear electrode does not significantly hamper the average frequency discrimination ability in EAS patients.