Letter to the Editor

Explanation on “Long-Term versus Short-Term Hearing Aid Benefit”

To the Editor:

In our recent article (Surr et al, 1998), we provided a formula for calculating relative benefit from Profile of Hearing Aid Benefit (PHAB) ratings:

$$\text{Relative benefit} = \frac{\text{Aided rating} - \text{unaided rating}}{100 - \text{unaided rating}}$$

We failed to note in the article that the PHAB ratings were transformed from frequency of problems to frequency of success (%). Although the traditional method for presenting PHAB results is in terms of frequency of problems, in our laboratory, we express these data as frequency of success (100 - frequency of problems rating) so that, when PHAB data are presented graphically with other traditional measures of hearing aid benefit (e.g., speech recognition scores), higher scores reflect better performance for all measures (see, for example, Walden et al, in press).

To calculate a benefit score using the PHAB data transformed to frequency of success, the formula is as published. If the traditional scoring of the PHAB is used (i.e., frequency of problems), relative benefit may be calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Relative benefit} = \frac{\text{Unaided rating} - \text{aided rating}}{\text{Unaided rating}}$$

We regret the omission of this explanation in the article and the possible confusion this may have created for the reader.

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REFERENCES
