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Loudness in hearing aid fitting – assessment and outlook

Although loudness measurement has been known since the 1970s and has been used by individual hearing aid acousticians for decades, it has only achieved a breakthrough in recent years – and for good reason!

Classic loudness scaling with narrow-band, third-octave noise signals has increasingly fallen out of favour, while relative loudness determination has become more and more popular. For two years now, loudness measurement with binaural, broadband signals has come into the public eye. This new hearing characteristic, measured here, provides unprecedented insights into hearing system settings.

The presentation explains the state of the art and the various different approaches to loudness-based fitting methods, also providing insights into how they are implemented for clients.

I shall also report on practical experience with these procedures.