

Sergi Rotger-Griful, Ph.D.

Snekkersten (Denmark)

Understanding communication challenges in people with hearing loss: Insights and future directions for audiological applications

One of the most disabling consequences of living with hearing loss is the difficulty in communicating with others. Among the various situations that hearing aid users encounter daily, speech communication is often considered the most crucial: they expect their hearing aids to significantly improve their ability to engage in conversations.

However, current clinical tests for assessing speech perception mainly focus on speech perception and intelligibility. These tests fall short in replicating the complexity and interactive nature of real-life communication. Recent research has increasingly focused on a holistic understanding of how individuals with and without hearing loss communicate. This includes studying variations in speech production as communication becomes more challenging, observing head movements in adverse communication conditions, and examining cardiovascular responses during difficult conversations, among other factors.

In this presentation, I will provide an overview of the research on communication behaviour, and discuss its implications for future audiological applications. This comprehensive approach aims to enhance our understanding of the complex nature of communication and shape the development of more effective audiological solutions.