



**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

Participant Information Sheet

Department of Audiology

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

22-30 Park Avenue, Grafton, Auckland 1023

Research title: Investigation of the benefit from New Zealand prescribed hearing aids for bilingual speakers in Mandarin and English speech in noise tests

Study site: University of Auckland Audiology laboratory

Student investigator: Daisy Yu Supervisor: David Welch Co-supervisor: Jiana Wu

Contact details: myu095@aucklanduni.ac.nz

This research project is conducted for a student researcher's master thesis.

You are invited to take part in a study about the effectiveness of hearing aids for bilingual speakers when listening to speech in background noise. Whether or not you take part is your choice. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason. If you do want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can pull out of the study at any time.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you would like to take part. It sets out why we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks to you might be, and what would happen after the study ends. We will go through this information with you and answer any questions you may have. You do not have to decide today whether you will participate in this study. Before you decide you may want to talk about the study with other people, such as family or friends. Please feel free to do this.

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign the Consent Form. You will be given a copy of the Participant Information Sheet to keep.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study is investigating how New Zealand prescribed hearing aids benefit bilingual speakers with Mandarin as the first language and English as the second language in hearing Mandarin or English speech in noise.

Who will take part in this study?

We are looking for individuals, over 18 years old, who are bilingual speakers (with Mandarin as the first language and English as the second language), who have hearing loss and wear hearing aids that were fitted by an audiologist in New Zealand.

What will participants in the study be asked to do?

We need to recruit around 20 participants.

Each experiment for individual participants takes about 120 minutes. Each experiment include 4 sessions: Mandarin speech in noise with hearing aids off, English speech in noise with hearing aids off, Mandarin speech in noise with hearing aids on, English speech in noise with hearing aids on. The experiments will happen in the University of Auckland audiology laboratory.

You none of them will be any louder than you would normally hear in your daily life. We will hear Mandarin and English words spoken in a background noise, and we will ask you to repeat whatever you hear. We will play a constant level of noise and varied levels of speech, but ask you to carry out these listening tasks with or without your hearing aids on because we are interested to know how much your hearing aids help you hear Mandarin or English speech in noise.

If participants have any cultural concerns, they can choose to discuss them with their families and friends first. We are also happy to discuss their cultural concerns with them.

What are the possible risks of this study?

- There is no side effect of these study research toward participants' health
- The hearing test will take about 120 minutes in total, so you might possibly feel a bit tired. To help avoid that, we will let you take breaks during the test
- We will take great care that none of the information about your hearing is ever published in any way that could identify you, and to ensure this is the case, we will not record your name when we save the information that we collected about you.

What are the possible benefits of the study?

This study intends to compare the benefit of New Zealand prescribed hearing aids for bilingual speakers (with Mandarin as the first language and English as the second language) when hearing their first language in noise to hear their second language in noise. This study may have implications for future hearing aids prescription for bilingual speakers.

Voucher to say Thank-you

By taking part in this research, participants will contribute to the development of hearing health research. A 'Thank you' voucher with a value of \$30 from a supermarket (eg. Countdown) will be given to each participant.

What will happen to my information?

Your data will be recorded in a computer file in an unidentifiable form. These data will form the basis of this research project.

Identifiable information

Identifiable information is any data that could identify you (e.g. your name). To make sure that you could not possibly be identified, information that could identify you will not be included in the data or any report generated by the researcher.

Security and storage of your information

Your consent form will be locked away at the UoA Audiology section for 6 years, then will be destroyed. Your research data will be entered into an electronic file and stored indefinitely (for potential future analysis) on password protected computers .

Rights to withdraw your information

You may withdraw your consent for the collection and use of your information at any time up till the end of the data collection session, by informing the researcher.

If you withdraw your consent, your study participation will end, and we will stop collecting information from you.

After your data collection session is completed, your data will be combined with the data from other participants in unidentified form. We will not know which is your data, so it will no longer be possible to withdraw your data after that point.

Can I find out the results of the study?

If you would like to receive a summary of the final research findings, we will send them to you via email. The analysis of the data will be presented in the researcher's thesis, you can also have a copy of the thesis if you are interested.

Who do I contact for more information if I have a concern?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact:

Daisy Yu via email: myu095@aucklanduni.ac.nz



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Dr David Welch via email: d.welch@auckland.ac.nz

Or Dr Grant Searchfield (Head of Section Audiology) via email:
g.searchfield@auckland.ac.nz

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 ext. 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on [14/Dec/22] for three years. Reference number AH25367.