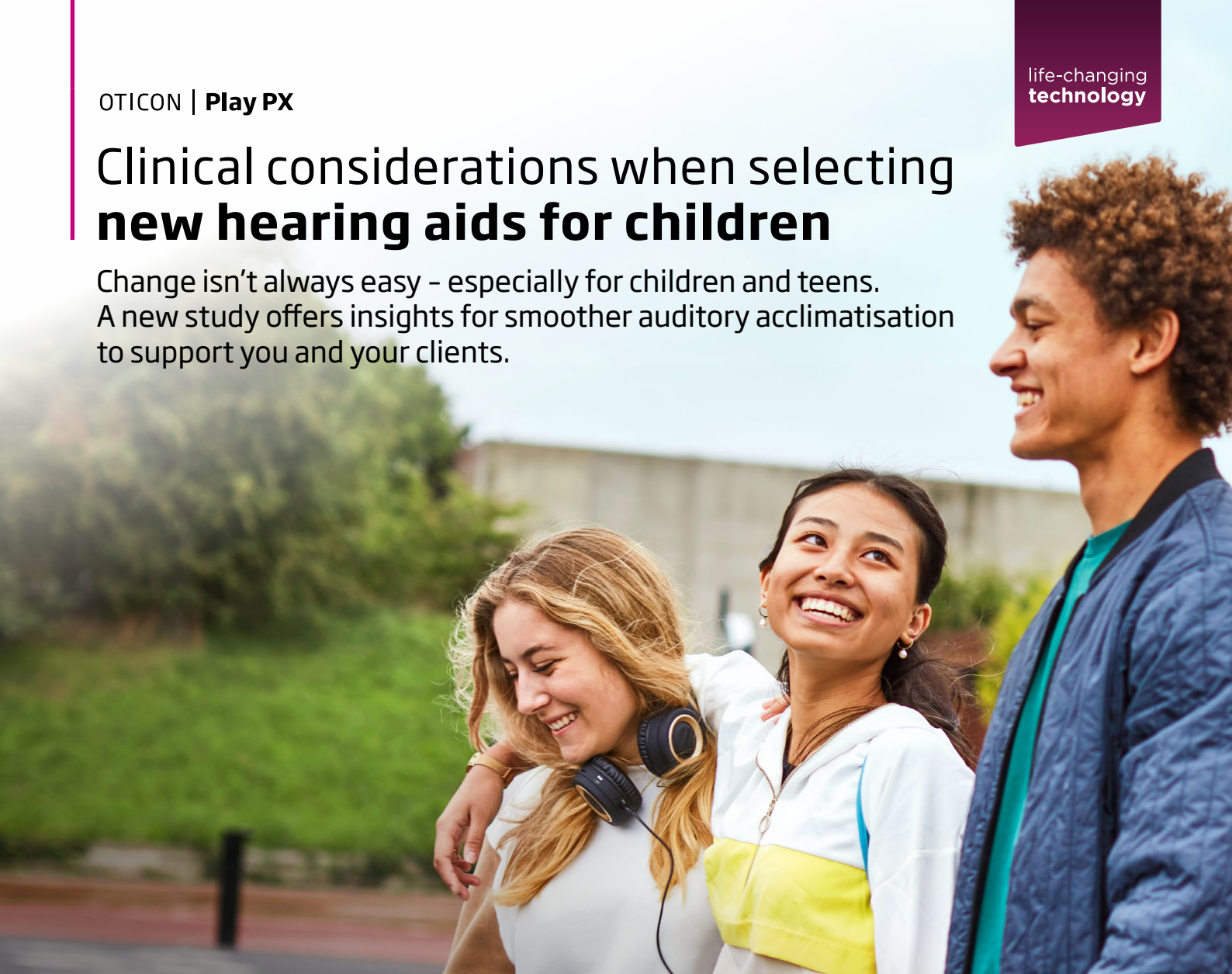


Clinical considerations when selecting **new hearing aids for children**

Change isn't always easy - especially for children and teens. A new study offers insights for smoother auditory acclimatisation to support you and your clients.



Hesitant to change

When selecting new hearing aids for your paediatric clients, it's natural to feel reluctant about switching them to a new brand.

For instance, your clients or their parents might be hesitant to try new technology. You might expect the auditory acclimatisation process - defined as the adjustment time related to learning to accommodate new auditory inputs through hearing technology - to be harder. Or you might think that counselling for change can't be done within a reasonable timeframe. And there's very little research available to provide you with answers.

Listening to the experts - teens

That is why we investigated this underexplored topic by speaking to teen hearing aid users themselves.

They provided insights that can:

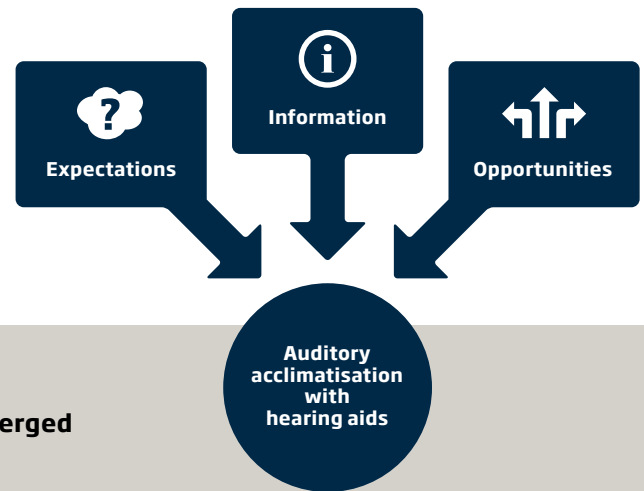
- Support you in making informed decisions in your clinical practice
- Help provide a clearer understanding of potential motivators and benefits of new technology
- Establish a set of best-practice guidelines to save you time when counselling young clients

Best practices - setting children up for success

To explore the potential for smooth auditory acclimatisation, we conducted a qualitative case study. Two teens with mild to moderate-severe sensorineural hearing loss, wearing bilateral hearing aids from a top competitor, participated in an “in clinic” trial and interview session with Oticon Play PX 1 miniBTE rechargeable hearing aids. First, an Oticon audiologist explained the idea of auditory acclimatisation, and then asked the participants a series of open questions about the process and their listening experience with Oticon Play PX.

Key questions we addressed included:

- How easy is it for children and teens to change hearing aid brands?
- How should audiologists prepare paediatric clients for change?
- What is the auditory experience of teens fitted with a new hearing aid brand within a typical clinic appointment time?



From the 15-minute interviews, three major themes emerged as key facilitators for successful acclimatisation:

1 Setting expectations is crucial

The teens wanted to know about adjustment time, how the hearing aids might sound, and how they might impact learning, social activities, and communication - explained in simple, concrete language.

2 Providing information is encouraging

They wanted to understand how the new hearing aids might help them hear better - especially in terms of sound quality and clarity, hearing in noisy environments, and listening comfort.

3 Discussing opportunities is motivating

They were willing and excited to try a new brand if there were benefits over their current hearing aid - specifically around cosmetics, wearing comfort, and new connectivity options.

Connectivity is a must

For today's children and teenagers, connectivity is a key part of how they interact with the world. The study participants emphasised that improvements in connectivity - as well as phone and music sound quality such as the outstanding music listening experience of Oticon MyMusic - were very important for them. They stated that these new benefits motivated them to work through the auditory acclimatisation process and contributed to their preference to change to Oticon Play PX.



Read the full whitepaper at www.oticon.co.nz/professionals/play-px

Gordey, D. (2022). Clinical Studies with Oticon Play PX: Exploring New Domains in Paediatric Amplification. Oticon Whitepaper. Oticon Play PX 1. Availability and function of technology, features and accessories can vary depending on hearing aid style and performance level selected. Performance of the hearing devices is dependent on individual circumstances and may not be appropriate for all conditions. Always read the label and follow the instructions.