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Parents and experts as partners in the participative decision making process for CI long-term; Lehnhardt Akademie: PORA webinars for professionals

The relationship between patients and medical experts has changed significantly in many parts of this world over the last couple of years. No more “Gods in White” who make decisions for their patients based on their “infinite” wisdom and knowledge. No more patients and their families feeling totally dependent on what is decided for them. We now see competent and self-confident patients, who evidently want to participate in the decision making process. The change in attitude was facilitated by the increasing ease of access to information via the Internet. This refers not only to sources like Wikipedia and other professional providers of information, but also to social media platforms. The person in need, in our case the parents who just learnt that their child is severely hearing impaired or deaf, will definitely try to get as much information as possible after they have overcome the first shock of diagnosis and when they are ready to get active. They will look for objective facts and figures, they will visit the websites of various companies providing hearing instruments, they will contact medical experts not only in their country but also abroad and connect with parents in a similar situation or with children who have been provided with cochlear implants and underwent professional habilitation since some time already. All this is possible beyond geographical borders and it is cost free. We will illustrate how parents and experts can become partners in this decision making process for CI long-term and how they can benefit from each other.

We will illustrate how the Lehnhardt Akademie utilizes Live Online rooms to offer webinars for professionals and parents, to meet global experts, listen to their presentations, provide access to the recordings in our weblog and organize forum discussions.