

*Title:* Parental decision making for unilateral hearing loss

*Aim:* This study's objective was to explore parental information needs for decision making for children with unilateral hearing loss.

*Methods:* A qualitative study was utilised using a grounded theory approach. Twenty one families across the United Kingdom were interviewed in their homes. The ages of the children with unilateral loss ranged from zero to sixteen years old.

*Findings:* Parents are keen to reframe their notion of 'normal' for their family as appropriate for their child. This is a shifting balance between parental concern and their child's autonomy to be involved and to make decisions on their own. Factors that feed into this process are sources of information, the perceived level of 'Deafness' and support from healthcare professionals. Parents are active in seeking information and guidance to help support their child across their educational and social development. Decisions range from the use of hearing amplification, accessing additional support to continual monitoring of their child's needs.

*Discussion:* The findings from this study correspond to findings from the wider literature. Information sources are lacking in providing sufficient information to families. Autonomy and child choice is important for parents from other healthcare fields also.

*Conclusions:* Parental decision making is an iterative process that is dependent on their child's needs. Information is sought from healthcare and associated professionals, support networks and social media. Parents are keen to promote child autonomy as they grow older.