

Shannon Doolittle, AuD<sup>1</sup>, Keri Colio, AuD<sup>1</sup>, Christina Bloodworth, SLP, LSLs cert. AVT<sup>1</sup>,  
Christiana David, SLP<sup>1</sup>, Erin Levy, AuD<sup>1</sup>, Julie Purdy, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Shari Garrett, SLP<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Carvalho, MD<sup>1,2</sup>  
Rady Children's Hospital<sup>1</sup> and University of California San Diego<sup>2</sup>- San Diego, CA

## BACKGROUND

The Comprehensive Hearing Assessment Team (CHAT) Clinic was developed by our team to serve children who are considering obtaining a cochlear implant. Experts from otolaryngology, speech language pathology, genetics, social work, and audiology work together to assess a child's cochlear implant (CI) candidacy. The goals of the CHAT clinic are to:

1. Provide support, education, and guidance regarding CI technology to caregivers/patient
2. Assess current functional listening skills, speech, and language development
3. Discuss options for communication modalities and address realistic expectations
4. Provide information about early intervention, school, and community services
5. Examine possible genetic contributions to hearing loss
6. Assess the emotional and support system needs of patients and families

The aim of this study is to assess the family's experience with the CHAT clinic.

## METHODS

The CHAT clinic has been assessing up to 4 children per month. There have been 13 clinics completed with a total of 46 children. Families have been asked to provide their satisfaction via a patient experience survey.

The survey asks families to rate 10 items as Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair or Poor, which includes the following statements:

- Do you believe that having a multidisciplinary team seeing your child in one setting was helpful to your FAMILY?
- Do you believe that having a multidisciplinary team seeing your child in one setting was helpful for your CHILD?

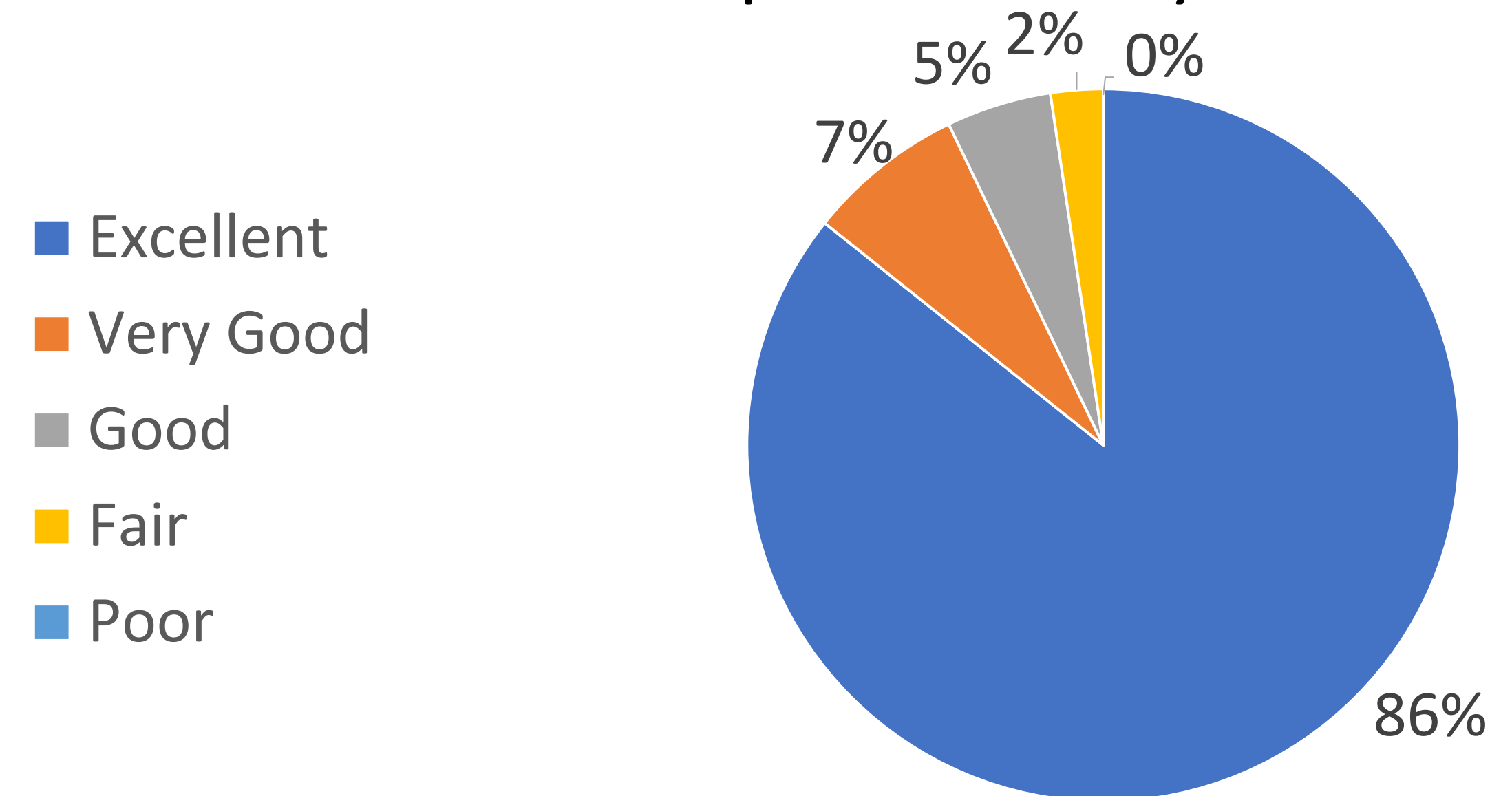
While the number of families who have completed the CHAT clinic are relatively low, initial trends were examined to determine possible improvement in timing of evaluation, amplification, or cochlear implantation.

## RESULTS

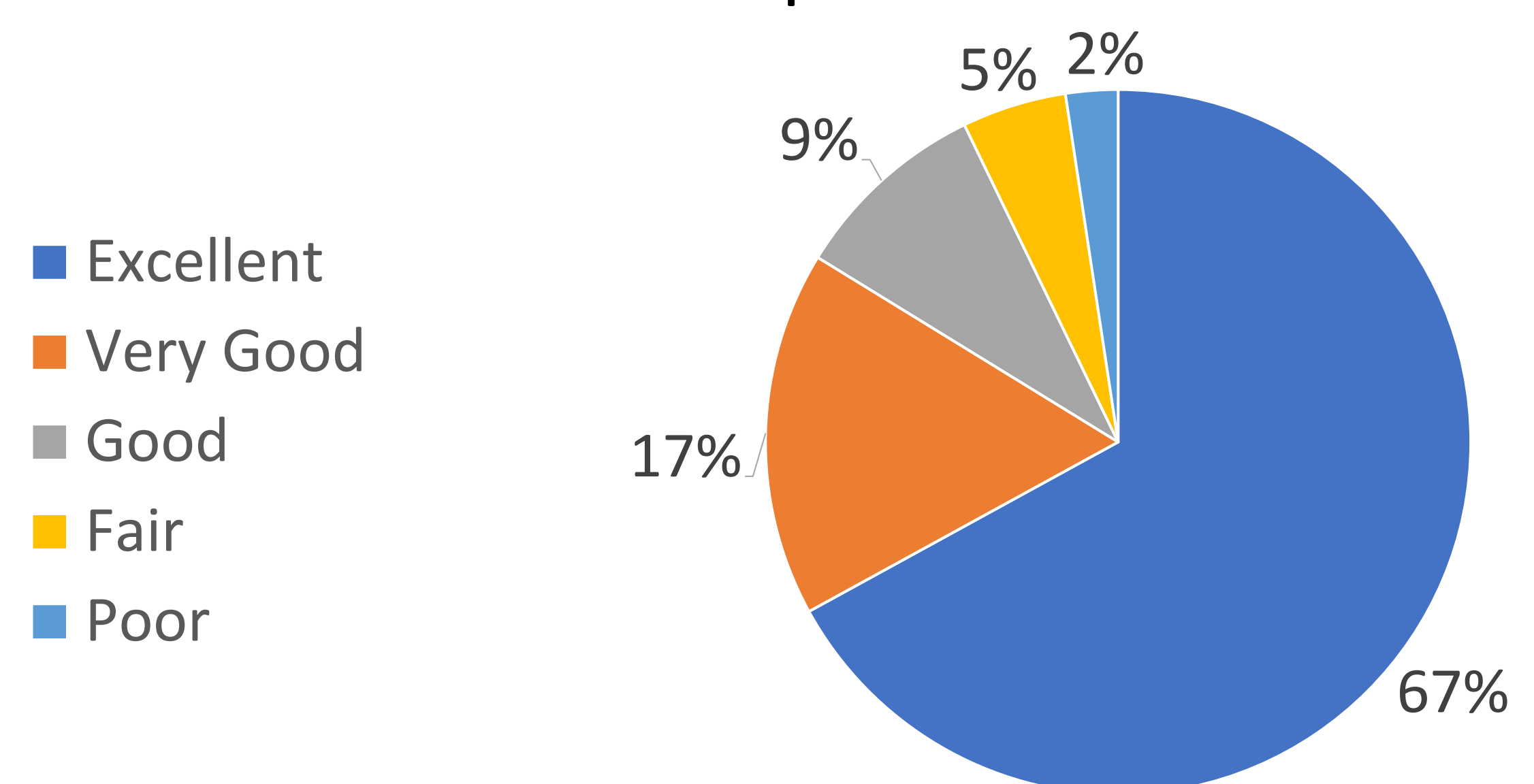
Of the 46 families who participated in the CHAT clinic, we received 42 completed surveys.

- 93% of our families reported very good to excellent satisfaction with the multidisciplinary team setting for their family.
- 83% of the families reported very good to excellent satisfaction with the multidisciplinary team setting for their child.

### Helpful to Family



### Helpful to Child



## DISCUSSION

Based on our initial patient satisfaction data, the CHAT clinic has been well received by families. We will continue to assess patient satisfaction as well as our ability to accelerate the implant candidacy process.

Additional findings include:

- Initial data analysis on this small sample revealed the time from the first evaluation to surgery was significantly reduced for prelingual patients seen at the CHAT clinic compared to prelingual CI candidates who were not seen at CHAT clinic.
- Age of diagnosis and timing of hearing aid fitting were not significantly reduced for prelingual patients.

## CONCLUSION

The multidisciplinary approach to cochlear implant evaluation is underutilized in a pediatric setting. Lack of physical space to accommodate multiple specialties as well as conflicting discipline/professional schedules create barriers to implementation. In addition, there are concerns regarding a young child's ability to complete lengthy testing in a single visit and family acceptance of such a long evaluation process which have not been closely examined.

## REFERENCES

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