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Hearing impairment in old age. Challenges and opportunities for rehabilitation and support.

Abstract

Hearing loss is one of the most frequently occurring impairments. The frequency of occurrence increases significantly with age. Hearing impairment is often closely linked to a comprehensive communication disability, which can have an impact on social interaction. For example, hearing impairment can lead to social isolation or even depression. In addition, studies indicate that hearing impairment can also be a significant factor in the onset of dementia.

Early fitting with hearing systems is a central component of medical-audiological rehabilitation. In addition, audioterapeutic intervention is of particular importance. This includes measures for hearing and communication training as well as cognitive training. A particular challenge is the living situation in retirement homes, which are often not equipped for the special needs of people with hearing loss. Measures to improve the situation in old people's homes are presented.

CV

Prof Dr Thomas Kaul was a Full Professor of Education and Rehabilitation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at the University of Cologne until 2021. He was responsible for training teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing as well as rehabilitation scientists working with adults with hearing impairment.

His research focuses on the education and training of deaf and hard of hearing pupils. He also works in the field of vocational rehabilitation of people with hearing impairment and care of Deaf people in old age.