

Bone Conduction & Middle Ear Devices SIG

The Bone Conduction and Middle Ear Devices Special Interest Group (BCMED SIG) has now nearly completed its first year and continues to work hard on behalf of the BCMED members and the BSA.

So, who are we? Following a successful recruitment campaign, Abi Asher, Wayne Ellis, Marsha Jenkins, Roulla Kaitri, Manuel Loureiro, Joceyln Pawson, Andrew Soulby, and Heidi Williams have joined the steering group. They bring a range of knowledge, experience and all important enthusiasm and have dived head-first into the main goal.

What is our goal? As the technology of BC/ME devices has improved, interest in and potential candidacy for them, both implantable and non-implantable, has rapidly grown. Despite this increased relevance there was no formal practice guidance available and no professional group to develop any. As a group we aim to develop guidelines to provide consistency in the profession for:

- BC/ME Assessment
- BC/ME Outcome measurement

How are we going to do that? Our first goal was to look at current practice within the UK. The BCMED SIG conducted a national survey which highlighted the diversity in current practice and the need for evidence based and consensus driven guidelines. The responses from the survey in combination with review of current literature are being used to create a draft practice guidance document. Standardised and achievable practice guidance will improve consistency in the assessment process and clinical outcome monitoring. Educating Audiologists nationally will increase patient access to and appropriate care and support for use of these devices. Development of this guidance will also help to identify areas where further research may be needed and allow a starting point for collaboration with other professionals to maximise the use of this technology.

We are very excited to be present at the BSA Scientific Meeting in June 2023. Here we can share our work so far and how much further we (hope) to be along in creating the first practice guidance for this cohort.