

HIGH-TECH HEADSETS IN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

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Background: A survey was given to 29 individuals in regard to whisper listening devices provided during guided tours on a study abroad trip to Europe. The headsets were used in Paris and Italy. The survey addressed overall function of the headsets, comfortable listening levels, and time of use. The responses were from males and females that were aged 18 and older.

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to determine whether the headsets enhanced the experience for individuals on guided tours.

Methods: The materials used were whisper headsets, specifically Musound Audioreceivers and Antenna International Tour Guide System, which were provided by the travel company. The method used to collect data was a survey conducted after participants had used the devices several times on several different guided tours. Participants were presented with ten questions about the devices and their experience using the device.

Results: Almost all participants were able to hear what the speaker was saying. One participant said they were unable to hear what the speaker was saying. One participant said that they were able to partially hear what the speaker was saying. Almost all participants felt comfortable wearing the device. Less than five participants did not feel comfortable wearing the device.

Discussions/Conclusions: All participants found the devices easy to use and helpful to have while participating in guided tours. Although opinions of sound quality varied, most participants found the devices to be beneficial in regard to hearing the information presented by the speaker. Most participants felt comfortable wearing the headsets.

Relevance to Allied Health: These findings imply that amplification devices have the ability to enhance the experience for a listener in listening situations.