

Preference-based quality of life increment in children with bilateral cochlear implantation. A general population survey.

Miguel A. Artaso
martaso@bec.uned.es

Francisco Javier Díez
fjdiez@dia.uned.es

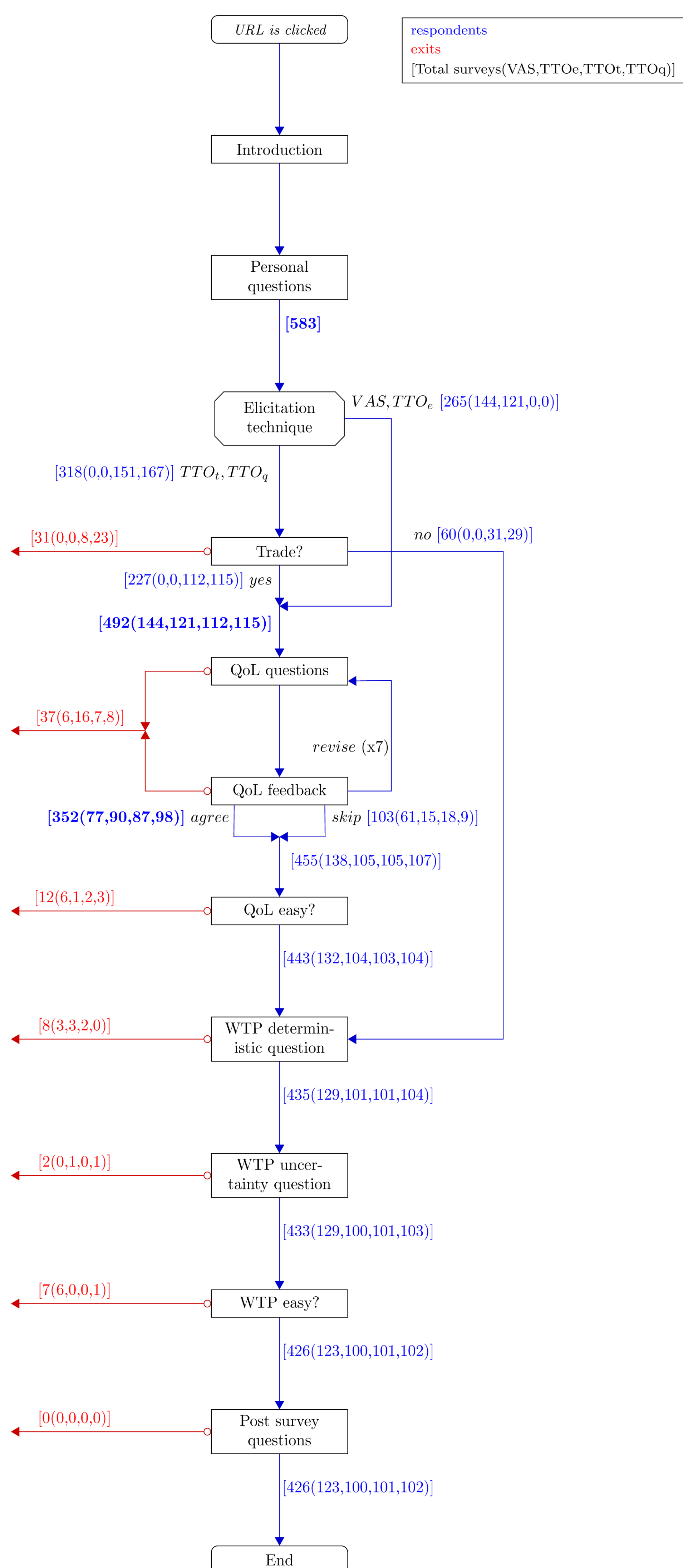
1 Introduction

- ◆ Bilateral cochlear implantation (BCI):
 - No study has been able to prove beyond all doubt that it is cost-effective
 - Not universally covered even in developed countries.
 - The parameter that most affects the cost-effectiveness is the **increment in quality of life (QoL)** with respect to unilateral implantation (UCI).
- ◆ Objective: to measure the QoL increment of pediatric BCI, in order to use this result in cost-effectiveness analyses.

2 Methods

- ◆ Online self-administered survey
- ◆ Respondents: students of our university (UNED)
- ◆ Two vignettes describing children with BCI vs. UCI
- ◆ Four elicitation methods
 - Visual analog scale (VAS)
 - Time trade-off giving up time (TTOt)
 - Time trade-off giving up QoL (TTOq)
 - Time trade-off via equivalence (TTOe)
- ◆ Feedback: VAS ↔ TTO(e)
 - and warnings for absurd responses.

3 Responses obtained for each elicitation technique

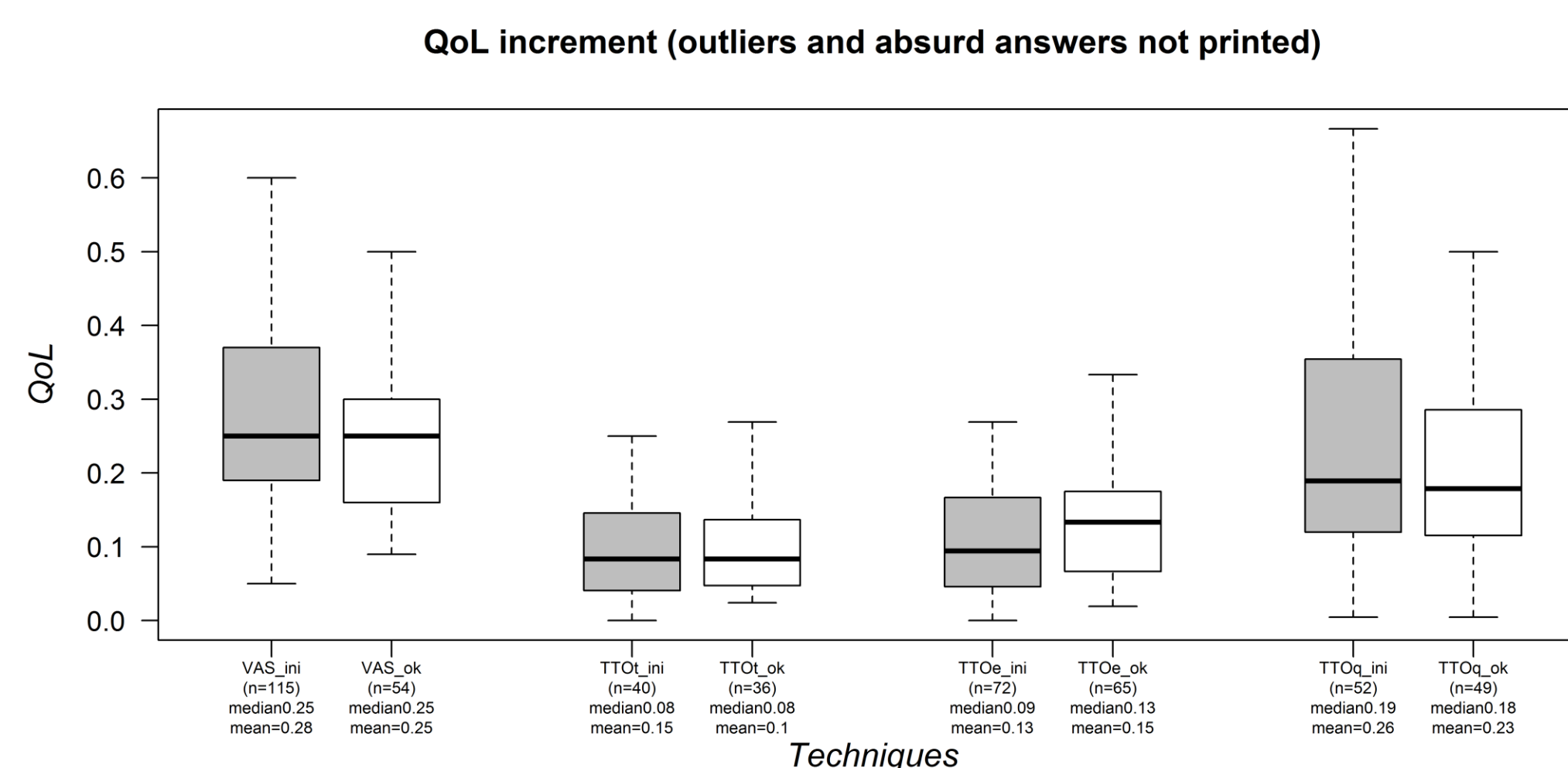


4 Results

Incentive	Students invited	Respondents	Response rate	% over total responses
No incentive	866	126	14,55%	21,61%
€100 (raffle)	867	149	17,19%	25,56%
€300 (raffle)	1732	308	17,78%	52,83%
Total	3465	583	16,83%	100,00%

Elicitation technique	Question proposed	Process completed	Agreed with result	Absurd answers	% absurd answers	ΔQoL (initial)	ΔQoL (confirmed)
VAS	144	138	77	23	16,67%	0.28	0.25
TTOt	121	105	90	65	61,90%	0.15	0.10
TTOe	112	105	87	33	31,43%	0.13	0.15
TTOq	115	107	98	55	51,40%	0.26	0.23
Total	492	455	352	176	38,68%		

5 Results



6 Conclusion

- ◆ Different techniques return different estimates for the QoL increment
 - The result of VAS is within the limits of previous studies
 - TTOe seems to be the most neutral method
 - TTOt seems to be biased towards low QoL estimates.
 - TTOq seems to be biased in the opposite direction.
- ◆ In general the results we have obtained are higher than in previous TTO studies
 - due to exclusion of non-traders and the feedback process.

7 Acknowledgments

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