



Tips and Hints!

Felicity Bleckly lived deaf for 15-20 years and received her first cochlear implant in 2003. Today, she's an active member of the Cochlear Awareness Network in Australia, and shares her tips for using the phone with a cochlear implant.

Tips and Hints for hearing more from your television

Many Cochlear Implantees can, after their implant, watch television without any devices or help. However, electronic equipment and the sound from this equipment differs greatly and the quality of sound is important if we are to hear well. There are some ways we can improve our listening experience.

Closed Captions

If you haven't explored Closed Captions or sub-titles then do so. The new digital televisions and set top boxes available in Australia are excellent quality. Most (if not all) come with closed caption capabilities. What is good is the digital signal is so much stronger than the old analogue signal so if the captions are being sent perfectly then you will receive them perfectly. They are all easily accessed (when compared with many analogue tvs) at the touch of a button.

Cochlear Television Cord

There are so many television, dvd, set-top box and amplifier configurations that I can't actually give you specifications of how to connect up to your set, but I can suggest the kind of things you need to look for. Remember, even if you think you would still use sub-titles it is still nice to get clear sound for all the music and environmental sounds.

The Cochlear television cord comes with a jack which plugs into your television headphone socket. The other end plugs into the 3battery controller on your processor. (Remember to either turn off the processor before plugging in the tv cord or hold the 'T'Switch' button so the processor recognises the accessory you have plugged in.)

Sound received direct to my processor from my television is (for me) exceptionally clear and I can hear and understand speech without any problem. There is a volume control on the

cord so you can't get the sound too loud but you still have control over what you hear. (The commercials are much louder than programs 😊)

The disadvantage of using the headphone socket is it cuts sound off into the room so if there are other people wanting to watch television at the same time, this is not an option.

However, the television cord will also work if plugged into audio sockets at the back of your television, through your set-top box or amplifier. You do however need the correct plug adaptors. For instance I need a dual banana plug to fit the sockets in the back of my tv and then an adaptor on the end of that cord to fit the Cochlear television cord.

The advantage of connecting this way is that my husband can control the volume of sound he wants and so can I and we both therefore hear what we need.

DVD

If you want to watch DVDs then again, provided your Cochlear Television Cord is connected correctly to your amplifier, tv or DVD player you can receive DVD sound through the television cord.

Computer Sound

You can also use your Cochlear television cord plugged into your computer or laptop. On a laptop simply use the headphone socket. On your computer you can use your headphone socket but remember that if you are trying to make a computer phone call there is no microphone on the television cord so you'd need a separate microphone.

Caution: According to Cochlear you should NOT use the Cochlear audio cord plugged into any mains equipment which does not have a transformer on it. This includes your computer. The reason is that if there was any surge in electricity while you are plugged in, you might damage your implant. The tv cord has a surge protector built into it and therefore can be used with any mains powered device.

What advice would you offer to other implant recipients?

So many of us have been denied television entertainment for so long. It is well worth the effort to find out how to connect your television so that you can hear everything. Even if the sound isn't perfectly clear you can still use the subtitles at the same time and enhance your listening experience.

If you are struggling with the many nuances of home media technology, please feel free to call me and I'll try to answer your questions.

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