

# Cochlear Hearing Solutions

## Cochlear Implants

Captures sound using an external speech processor and sends it to the inner ear via an internal implant placed in the cochlea.



- ① Behind the ear processor
- ② Cable & Coil

## Bone Conduction Implants

Re-routes sound via bone conduction, sending it directly to the cochlea, bypassing the middle ear.



### For more recipient stories

[www.c-a-network.com](http://www.c-a-network.com)

### For more information on Cochlear solutions

1800 620 929 (Toll free in Australia)

0800 444 819 (Toll free in New Zealand)

[customerservice@cochlear.com](mailto:customerservice@cochlear.com)

[www.cochlear.com](http://www.cochlear.com)

## Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN)

CAN is a team of volunteers who are recipients of Cochlear hearing solutions, or parents of recipients. They proactively educate the community and health professionals on how Cochlear hearing solutions can dramatically improve the communication ability and quality of life for people impacted by a significant hearing loss.

### Cochlear Awareness Network Volunteer

**Julio Gupte**

**Cochlear Implant Recipient**

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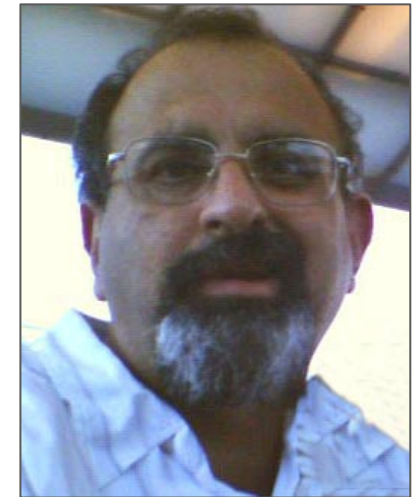
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Cochlear Awareness Network



Cochlear Awareness Network



## Julio's story

**An undiagnosed Acoustic Nueroma almost cost Julio his life.**

*"What joy! Being unable to hear was a real drag!"*

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

## Meet Julio

It was 1973 and I was just 11 years old when I found out I was completely deaf in my left ear. I lived with hearing in just one ear until 1990 when my right ear lost all hearing in a matter of hours, replaced by loud Tinnitus (ringing in the ear).

I was terrified and immediately went to the hospital. A number of tests revealed nothing and I was prescribed steroids. Slowly my hearing returned to about 80% of what it had been.

But by 1993 my residual hearing had dropped to almost nothing, replaced by Tinnitus. I found the best ENT specialist in Australia was Professor Gibson, but even he could find nothing wrong. However, he suggested a Cochlear Implant. In those days I had no health insurance and the public waiting list was two years so I took part in the trial of a new Cochlear implant.

The operation was relatively simple and I was switched on a few weeks later. But unlike anyone else before me, the programming of the

implant produced pain. No-one had ever heard of this before. Eventually my implant was switched off then removed and I was implanted with earlier technology. I eagerly awaited switch on because I didn't like not hearing. But switch on for this implant produced the same effect as had the first one. Everyone was at their wits end. I had test after test but it wasn't until I had leg pains that a second CAT scan revealed I had a huge Acoustic Nueroma.

These are usually diagnosed when they are the size of a pea. Mine was the size of a tennis ball and was pressing on my brain. I had an immediate operation to remove the Nueroma because it was now threatening my life. More surgery, first to remove the implant and then the Acoustic Nueroma. The operation took 15 hours over 3 shifts. I died three times on the operating table and had to be revived with paddles.

I went through a long rehabilitation and even had to learn to walk again. I was of course still unable to hear anything.

Once again Professor Gibson came to my rescue, giving me a new cochlear implant, this time in my left ear - the one that had been deaf for almost a quarter of a century! The best we hoped for was it would help me lip-read. But the outcome was much better. My comprehension was good right from switch-on and has steadily improved. I enjoyed good hearing (you should have seen my mobile phone bills!) until this implant too played up.

You'd think I'd have given up by now wouldn't you – but no I really do enjoy hearing... so once more in 2005 I had a new implant. I think I must be the world record holder. I have had four implants, but only have two ears and even then only one of them works.

Has it been worth it? You bet. Not being able to hear is a drag and I hope to enjoy a long and happy association with Cochlear in the future.

*"It has all been worth it because I can hear again."*