

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

For more information on Cochlear solutions

1800 620 929 (Toll free in Australia)

0800 444 819 (Toll free in New Zealand)

customerservice@cochlear.com

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

Leone Sperling

Hybrid Cochlear Implant Recipient

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www.c-a-network.com



Cochlear Awareness Network



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Leone's story

Hereditary Deafness

"I am very grateful for the improvements the Hybrid Implant has given me."

Hear now. And always



Cochlear™

Meet Leone

At the age of 52, I started losing my hearing due to genetic nerve degeneration. My grandmother, mother, aunt and brother all had a hearing loss. However, my loss is different - a 'ski-slope' loss which means I have very good hearing over low frequencies but I have profound/severe deafness in middle and high frequencies.

For a long time I functioned in the real world without hearing aids provided it was quiet with one or two people, and I could also lip-read. But even with my residual natural hearing I couldn't understand the TV. I couldn't understand movies or the theatre and I couldn't hear people speaking in cars or in restaurants.

In 1996 I experienced a sudden loss in my right ear. I was fitted with an in-the-ear hearing aid in my left ear but was told my right ear was so bad, a hearing aid would be of no use. Then in 1999 I suffered a similar sudden loss of hearing in my left ear. When I was referred for a Cochlear Implant I performed so well on tests I was sent

away, and told I could hear better than anyone with an implant and the technology had not yet been invented to help people like me. The audiologist fitted me with two BTE hearing aids but they really didn't help. Because I managed well, people didn't seem to understand how exhausting listening was and I felt isolated.

Through the years I consulted other audiologists, always hoping for a breakthrough and although I met with sympathy and understanding, there was still nothing available for my kind of hearing loss.

I first heard about the Cochlear Hybrid implant at a Better Hearing Conference in 2006. At last there was a device that utilized, rather than destroyed, good residual low frequency hearing. I asked to be part of the research project. I was assessed and in June 2007, became the first person in Sydney to receive the Hybrid implant. I felt the hand of Fate was working here. I had been waiting for something like the Hybrid to be invented and here I was in the right place at the right time to be the first person in the Sydney trial. I found the 15 month trial interesting and rewarding, though certainly time-consuming.

Although warned not to have high expectations, I still anticipated hearing perfectly at 'switch-on' and was disappointed to hear this terrible noise – high-pitched, robot-like, artificial, Donald Duckish sounds. Gradually this improved.

The Hybrid works for me by giving me sounds I can no longer hear naturally, while allowing my normal hearing to hear the lower frequencies. Somehow this enhances what hearing I have left so I feel as if I am hearing better naturally.

The implant has been beneficial for me. Social situations and family gatherings are no longer so tiring. I can hear in a restaurant, in the car and I can hear some of the voice-overs on TV.

When I turn my implant off I feel terribly deaf and have become dependent on it. Although there are still things I can't hear, I feel privileged to have been a part of this research and I am very grateful for the improvements the Hybrid implant has given me.

"I was privileged to be part of this Hybrid Cochlear Implant Research."