A SURVEY OF COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF COCHLEAR IMPLANT RECIPIENTS

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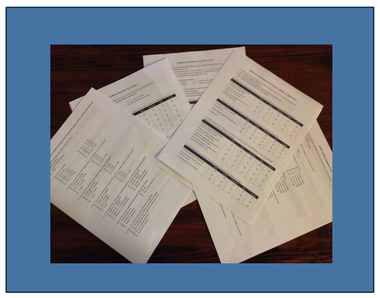
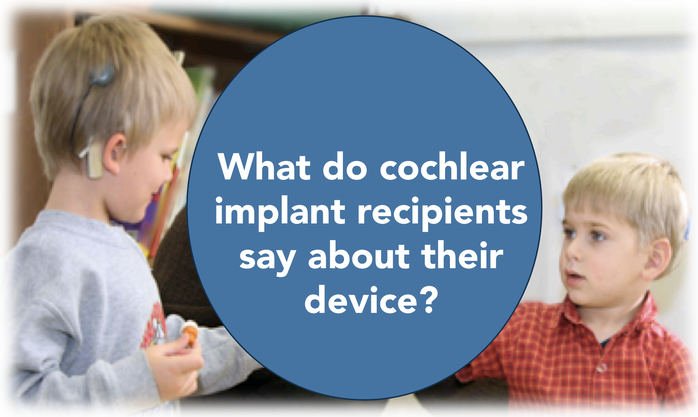
Introduction

Numerous researchers have documented the benefits of cochlear implants (CIs) to improve the listening and spoken language opportunities for individuals with severe or profound hearing loss.

However, controversy still exists, with reports from some groups that CIs may cause harm and are ineffective to users over their lifespan. However, few studies exist that have obtained feedback directly from CI users themselves.

We believe the best way to better understand both the benefits and the challenges of cochlear implants is to obtain more data from the people who actually use them.





Survey Demographics

All (n=61)	Current age of CI Recipients	5-6 yrs	7-8 yrs	9-10 yrs	11-12 yrs	13-14 yrs	15-18 yrs	Adults
	# of Responses	7	7	7	8	8	4	20
Children in K-12 (n=41)	Age when HL confirmed	Under 6 mos	6-12 mos	13-24 mos	2 yrs	3 yrs	4-5 yrs	6+ yrs
	# of Responses	18	7	8	3	1	2	2
	Age when received first implant	Under 12 mos	12-17 mos	18-24 mos	2 yrs	3 yrs	4-5 yrs	6+ yrs
	# of Responses	1	8	6	8	6	5	7
Adults (n=20)	Age when HL confirmed	Under 12 mos	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-13 yrs	14-19 yrs	20-40 yrs	41+ yrs
	# of Responses	7	1	1	1	1	1	8
	Age when received first implant	Under 12 mos	1-3 yrs	4-7 yrs	8-13 yrs	14-19 yrs	20-40 yrs	41+ yrs
	# of Responses	0	1	1	1	1	3	13

Study Description

Survey study design. Four surveys were developed to query:

- Adult CI recipients
- Parents of children K-12
- Parents of children in preschool
- Parents of children birth to three years

Surveys mailed to all patients on record who had been seen for CI services at a CI clinic in the western region of the U.S.

- 198 surveys mailed
- 72 surveys returned thus far (36% return rate to date)

In this presentation:

- Data will be reported only for adult and K-12 responses (n=61)
- Not all data from the comprehensive surveys will be presented due to space constraints

Findings:

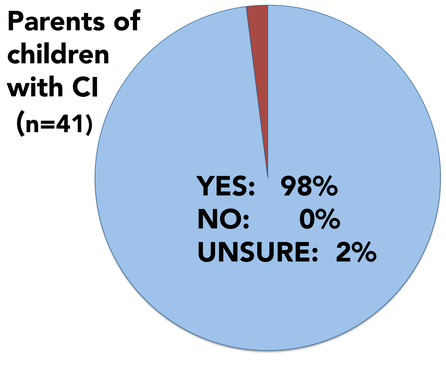
- Survey participants expressed overwhelmingly positive responses to their or their child's cochlear implant.
- Nearly all respondents indicated strong integration within their hearing communities.
- Cochlear implants continue to perform much better in quiet listening environments, but provide some benefit in noisy environments for many CI users.

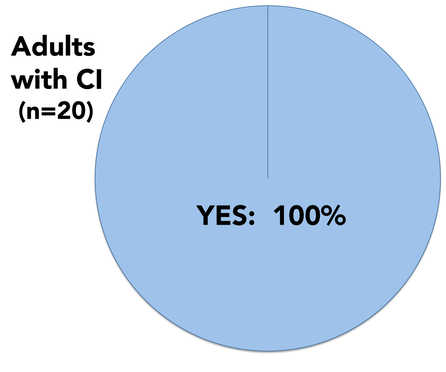
Results
Communication and Social Interactions

CHILDREN IN K-12 (n=41)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My child willingly wears his/her cochlear implant on a regular basis	0%	0%	0%	12%	88%
My child is comfortable communicating with people using Listening and Spoken Language	0%	5%	2%	20%	73%
My child is comfortable communicating with people using American Sign Language	35%	23%	22%	10%	10%
My child's social skills are similar to his/her hearing peers	2%	13%	13%	28%	44%
My child has a wider circle of friends and acquaintances because he/she uses cochlear implant(s)	4%	12%	10%	20%	54%
My child feels caught between the "hearing world" and the "deaf world"	47%	29%	17%	5%	2%

ADULTS (n=20)	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have had more occupational choices because of my cochlear implant(s)	0%	0%	28%	33%	39%
I am comfortable communicating with people using Listening and Spoken Language	5%	0%	0%	40%	55%
I am comfortable communicating with people using American Sign Language	25%	19%	19%	25%	12%
I have similar social interactions as my peers because of my cochlear implant(s)	5%	15%	25%	35%	20%
I have a wider circle of friends and acquaintances because of my cochlear implant(s)	0%	10%	15%	15%	60%
I feel caught between the "hearing world" and the "deaf world"	45%	0%	35%	20%	0%

If you had it to do over again, would you make the same decision for you or your child to receive a cochlear implant?





Results
Listening Environment

CHILDREN IN K-12 (n=41)	Did Not Meet	Rarely Met	Partially Met	Mostly Met	Completely Met
Quiet classroom setting	0%	3%	0%	20%	77%
Noisy classroom setting	3%	8%	23%	53%	13%
Small group conversations	3%	0%	0%	34%	63%
Large group conversations	5%	7%	25%	45%	18%
Restaurants	3%	3%	33%	38%	23%
Quiet social situations (e.g., park)	3%	0%	0%	27%	70%
Noisy social situations (e.g., birthday party)	5%	7%	30%	40%	18%
Conversing with familiar people	3%	0%	0%	24%	73%
Conversing with unfamiliar people	3%	0%	12%	45%	40%
Listening to music	3%	3%	16%	35%	43%

ADULTS (n=20)	Did Not Meet	Rarely Met	Partially Met	Mostly Met	Completely Met
Quiet setting	0%	0%	5%	30%	65%
Noisy setting	5%	15%	40%	40%	0%
Small group conversations	0%	10%	20%	45%	25%
Large group conversations	0%	20%	50%	30%	0%
Restaurants	0%	40%	25%	35%	0%
Conversing with familiar people	0%	5%	15%	45%	35%
Conversing with unfamiliar people	0%	15%	40%	25%	20%
Listening to music	15%	20%	20%	15%	30%