



Expectations regarding outcome and commitment required for a cochlear implant

Name:

Date: _

Speech

1. At switch-on I will be able to hear speech but it is unlikely that I will be able to understand any words.
2. It may take as long as 6 months to become used to the new sounds.
3. Speech may not sound natural to me.
4. All words may not sound clear to me.
5. I will be able to tell the difference between some but not all voices.
6. Speech may not always be easy for me to understand.
7. I will need lots of training to make the best use of the new sound.
8. Wearing the speech processor regularly will improve my progress.
9. The rhythm of speech will be easier to detect.
10. I may not be able to understand all speech without lip-reading.
11. Learning to identify all sounds may be difficult.
12. My hearing will not become normal even after using the implant for a long time.
13. Others will still know I have a hearing problem.
14. Everyone who has an implant will not eventually have the same hearing ability –outcomes for each person are individual and different.

Environmental sounds

1. At first, I may find sounds loud and annoying.
2. I will be able to notice many everyday sounds.
3. With practice I may learn to recognize many, but not necessarily all background sounds.
4. The speech processor is very sensitive to background sounds.
5. I may have difficulty localizing the direction of sound.
6. Background noise will always make hearing and understanding harder.

Voice monitoring

1. I will be able to hear my own voice.
2. I should be able to control the level of my voice with practice.
3. The sound of my voice may improve.

Lip-reading

1. Lip-reading will still be a major part of my communication.
2. I will need to see someone's face to understand words, especially in the first few weeks after switch-on.
3. Lip-reading may become less effort when I become accustomed to hearing speech.
4. It may be possible to understand some speech without lip-reading when I have gained more experience with my implant.
5. I may not understand people talking on television without lip-reading.
6. Lip-reading will be especially important when I am trying to hear in noise.

Telephone

1. I will not be able to hear over the telephone right away.
2. I may be able to understand some speech over the telephone after training and practice.

Music

1. Music may not sound normal to me even after using the implant for some time.
2. Although I may hear music, it may not sound pleasant to me.
3. I may be able to identify a simple song.
4. I may be able to pick out the rhythm but not always the melody of the song.

Tinnitus

1. I realize there is a possibility that tinnitus may be present or become worse post-implantation.

Education and work

1. My education/work prospects may improve, but not singularly as a result of having an implant.

Long-term commitment

1. Having a cochlear implant is a long-term commitment.
2. I understand that my speech processor will require regular reprogramming (as outlined in the schedule of appointments) for the rest of my life.
3. My progress will be assessed at regular intervals.
4. Auditory training exercises practised with my support person will need to be done regularly to maximize my hearing potential.

The above issues have been explained to me. I understand that these are appropriate expectations and the commitment required to get the most out of my cochlear implant.

Patient:

Witness:

Audiologist: