

WELCOME TO CIICA

Cochlear Implant International Community of Action

THE GROWING GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF HEARING LOSS AND DEAFNESS

- WHO estimates that **1 in 5** people worldwide live with hearing loss.
- Unaddressed hearing loss and deafness have a huge personal impact: in children they are linked to delayed language and educational attainment, and in adults to social isolation, loss of independence, unemployment, mental health issues, falls, cognitive decline, resulting in the increased use of health and social care service.
- Midlife hearing loss is the biggest risk factor for cognitive decline and dementia (*Lamb & Archbold, 2019; Livingstone et al, 2017*).
- The Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) ranks hearing loss as the third most common cause of Years Lived with Disability (YLD) and is the leading cause in the over 70's (*The Lancet, 2021*).
- WHO (2021) estimates that unaddressed hearing loss costs governments **US\$980 billion** annually.

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... you lose self-esteem, you don't want to mix, anything like that because that's what deafness does to you

Adult

THE GAP IN PROVISION FOR CI

Today's hearing technologies including cochlear implants (CI) can change this: but globally access to CI is low and provision inadequate.

Globally, only **1 in 20** who could benefit from an implant receive one.

This gap in provision results in a massive personal and public health issue in dealing with the consequences of unaddressed hearing loss despite the proven benefits of CIs.

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The cochlear implant is one of the most successful of all neural prostheses developed to date

WHO, 2021

CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION

CIICA is led by users and family groups, working closely with professional organisations, experts in the field of CI and other stakeholders to increase access to cochlear implantation and lifelong support for those who could benefit from them.

OUR GOALS:

- To develop a global community of CI advocacy groups, with opportunities to share activities and resources and collaborate to strengthen the user and family voice.
- To provide CI advocates with the tools for change they need to increase access to CI services.
- To increase access to the provision of CI and lifelong services globally

CIICA is the result of a global consultation on CI advocacy issues; the summary is to be found in its Foundation Document, at www.ciicanet.org

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Hearing loss has real health consequences and a huge economic impact on individual and society – we need to take action – we have a story to tell...

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS CHANGE LIVES:

In adults they have been shown to improve quality of life, reduce depression, improve employability, and improve cognitive functioning.

In children they have been shown to have a positive impact on language development educational outcomes and social and emotional development.

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My daughter now attends mainstream school with her friends, enjoys music and singing...

Parent

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I feel that so much of my previous life has been restored, regaining my pride and ability to contribute actively in society on an equal basis.

Adult CI user

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS – ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN HEARING CARE

- WHO (2021) estimate that for every **US\$** invested in ear and hearing care there is a return on investment of **US\$16**
- For unilateral cochlear implants, estimations based on actual costs in a high-income setting showed a return of **2.59 International dollars for every 1 dollar invested**
- In one recent study prelingually deaf children with a bilateral CI had a lifetime positive outcome net benefit of **€433,000**. (Neve et al, 2021)
- Adults and seniors with progressive profound hearing loss and one CI had a total net benefit of **€275,000** and **€76,000**, respectively. (Neve et al, 2021)
- Socio economic costs to Europe of hearing loss exceed **216 billion Euros** per year (Shield 2019; www.hear-it.org)

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Early rehabilitation along with use of hearing devices such as cochlear implants are also cost-effective, despite large costs associated with initial technology investments

Lancet, 2021

NOTES

For a summary of the Internationally recognised standards of care that CIICA supports see New Global Guidelines on Standards of Care for Adult Cochlear Implantation. To be found at www.eurociu.eu and at www.ciicanet.org Full paper (Buchman et al, 2020) on these International Consensus Statements to be found at www.adulthearing.com

Lamb, B. and Archbold, S. Hearing Care, Cognitive Decline and Dementia: A public health challenge for an opportunity for healthy ageing? April 2019. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332753002_

The Lancet (2021). Hearing loss prevalence and years lived with disability, 1990–2019: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. VOLUME 397, ISSUE 10278, P996-1009, MARCH 13, 2021 DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00516-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00516-X)

Livingston G, Sommerlad A, Orgeta V, Costafreda, SG, Huntley J, Ames D, et al. Dementia prevention, intervention, and care. The Lancet. (2017). [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(17\)31363-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(17)31363-6)

Neve, Olaf M et al., Cost-benefit Analysis of Cochlear Implants: A Societal Perspective. Ear & Hearing 2021.

Shield, B. (2019) Hearing Loss – Numbers and Costs. Evaluation of the social and economic costs of hearing impairment. A report for Hear-It AISBL. <https://www.hear-it.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/Hear-it%20Report%20Hearing%20Loss%20Numbers%20and%20Costs%202019.pdf>

WHO World Hearing Report 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/world-report-on-hearing>

Do you want to know more?

Do you want to help make a difference?

Join CIICA to make change happen and to share resources and activities

Email info@ciicanet.org or visit www.ciicanet.org