

Just Managing the Technology?

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I am Darja Pajk, an occupational therapist by profession, and for many years I have had the opportunity to try out various technological solutions for people with hearing loss. Today, I present a thinking that arises again and again when I face new technological challenges, which have been extremely numerous in the last year.

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*It is important to understand hearing loss and the use of CI. When you face with hearing loss as an adult you don't really know much about it. And as we know, this is difficult to accept and understand. But for good integration into active life, it is good to know your loss, to understand it, and above all to know what the possibilities are of either hearing aids or cochlear implants.

*It is important to know when did the complete loss occur in adulthood

* to be aware of the environment , in which the person with HL lives, because the requirements of the environment in which the individual lives are different

*For individuals and professionals it is very important to know about the impact of emotional experience of hearing loss and the ability to communicate with and use of CI

*Many people many times simply forget the ability to understand technology and the ability to constantly learn to use it. Constantly changing technology, constant learning is often extremely stressful in everyday life,

*and unfortunately many people also do not realize how important manual skills and fine motor skills are when handling small particles of implants.

If we only think about replacing the batteries in the cold and wind.

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It is necessary that we understand and accept the specificity of persons with CI

* a person with CI is a deaf person

* the most part, the person with CI engage in daily life and do not expose their condition

*does not matter how good you are with rehabilitation, it is more difficult to function in a demanding environment (noise, masks) and you requires support

*also we must understand that if you are using CI you become fatigued faster because you are constantly focusing on listening, but also we want to participate equally

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**And what is also necessary to know is that CI users usually are not technical experts. And when we have a problem using our technology, we can't just call and solve the problem. Because still a lot of people who use CI have trouble understanding over the phone.

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So, lets go on .. Basic - one processor ...

Most laymen imagine that when you put a speech processor on your head, you can listen well. Many people do not know that you have a long way of rehabilitation behind you and receive, and that you must always be aware that your speech processor must be full and that you must always have a charger or batteries with you wherever you go.

But if we have two ...

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The technique is advancing and it is quite difficult to imagine that the sound can be amplified even more so that the understanding can be significantly improved. Sometimes such unimaginable phone conversations are made possible by advances in technology. Bluetooth is something extremely positive and a technique that makes it possible as well. But, sometimes we are the ones who just don't know how to use the options we have. Because it happens that no one explains it to us. It is not so simple.

*And if you have maybe two processors with different technique - well, it can be complicated.

But that is not all...

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Companies have predicted that the batteries on the processor may run out, so there is the possibility of spare batteries that are just different from the models. But even with that, you need to think about what all you need to have with you.

*And if you have two ...

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Pairing two devices - it is hard to understand what is possible. Small icon on your mobile phone allows pairing, and then you can use mobile phone for settings your CI. The younger generation understands all the procedures much better and also faster, gaining knowledge by the way. But older people need a lot of help, explanations and also practical demonstrations of how they can start the process.

Unfortunately, support is not available in many places, especially not in your native language. And as I mentioned, the problem is that a phone call doesn't help much here.

I myself found years ago that it is extremely useful to use a social network to talk to a company. Because sometimes you have such a specific situation that only an expert involved in a

development can explain it to you. My very positive experience is when I asked how to connect two generations of my processor I got help.

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So, it is imperative to be aware that listening with implant is something and something completely different is to connecting with other devices.

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There are some q if people know how to use everything they have?

*Do the technicians explain to them everything they have at their disposal?

*Does anyone teach them how to use what they have at their disposal?

*Do they remember to read all the instructions they get?

*Do they remember to look at YouTube where there are a lot of good shots using the technology?

*Do they know how to use YouTube?

*Or do they use messenger to solve a problem?

*Does any of their loved ones master the technology they have available?

*Is there always a good wi fi signal that they can use?

*What if the electricity runs out?

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So for conclusion I can say that

To understand that cochlear implants are a great solution and enable people to have a much better quality of life

That using an implant requires a lot of energy, learning, knowledge, skills, adaptation, and understanding and a peaceful environment is desirable

the participation of users and manufacturers must be constant, as this is the only way to create a technology that a every CI user can actually use

And for the end I can say, as always, I am grateful for all technique, which allows me to live normal life, even I spend a lot of my time in studying how to connect and use everything what they offer me. And also, we need to be very flexible and have a lot of ideas how to find the solutions for problems which we have sometimes.

Can you please put this sentence on this slide yes done excellent