

CI International Community of Action, CIICA: a global network, united by a common mission to close the gap in cochlear implant provision and ensure lifelong support for all who could benefit.

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. <https://ciicanet.org/>

“The cochlear implant is one of the most successful of all neural prostheses developed to date”
World Hearing Report, WHO, 2021

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, 2021; Livingstone et al., 2017, Livingstone et al, 2020*).
- 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.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS CHANGE LIVES:

Cochlear implants can change this. In adults they have been shown to improve quality of life, reduce depression, improve employability, and improve cognitive functioning. (WHO, World Report on Hearing, 2021)

In children they have been shown to have a positive impact on language development educational outcomes and social and emotional development. (WHO, World Report on Hearing, 2021).

“ Children with cochlear implants have greater likelihood of acquiring oral language, integrating into regular schools and being able to experience sounds along with better speech skills.” (WHO, World Report on Hearing, P98, 2021).

“ The scope of implantation has been expanded to adults with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss, who show improved speech perception and health-related quality of life with their use.” (WHO, World Report on Hearing, P98, 2021).

THE GAP IN PROVISION FOR CI

In spite of the evidence, globally access to CI is low and provision inadequate.

Globally, only **1 in 20** people who could benefit from an implant receives 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.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION – ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN HEARING CARE. THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS EVIDENCE

- 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)

“Early rehabilitation along with use of hearing devices such as cochlear implants are also cost-effective” Lancet, 2021

Increased provision of Cochlear Implants requires funding and long term sustainable support for users and families. This would be cost effective and save society money while improving lives.

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CIICA supports users of Cochlear Implants and those campaigning for improved access to this life changing intervention. Our vision is a world where access to CI and lifelong services are available for all who could benefit. To achieve this our goals are:

- **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 and improve support after implantation and ensure lifelong care.**
- **To increase access to the provision of CI and lifelong services globally**

NOTES

Lamb, B. and Archbold, S. (2021). Why hearing well matters for healthy ageing. .The Impact of Hearing Loss on Cognitive Health and Dementia. CIICA 2021.

<https://ciicanet.org/2021/12/01/ciica-and-eurociu-launch-new-resource-why-hearing-well-matters-for-healthy-ageing/>

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, et al., (2020). Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission, Lancet, 396, 413-446. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30367-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30367-6)
[https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(20\)30367-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)30367-6/fulltext)

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? To see the range of global action taking place, share resources and inspiration visit www.ciicanet.org