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Latin America CI Challenges

Prof.Ing. Hernán Spotti- CI User.

The main challenges in Latin America for the acquisition of the Cochlear Implant are:

1- Costs: Most of the countries deal with distributors which make the cost of the devices highly expensive.

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2 Inflation has made the amounts in the local currency (manufacturing costs are in US \$) very high

3 - Delay in the approval of the Devices, for example, although in Argentina coverage by Prepaid, Social Insurances and even the government is mandatory.

The high cost they represent makes approvals slow.

4 - The spare parts are also very expensive and that makes it very difficult for the patient to pay.

5 - Although there are many trained professionals, the training of many in the most remote places is lacking. Whether for diagnosis as well as for surgeries.

It is a high cost for families that have to travel.

Latin America Challenges...

6. Although we have screening in place, diagnosis is often very late. This is a problem. We need more staff and funds for them.

