



MARCELA VARELA, COLOMBIA

PARENTAL CHALLENGES IN COLOMBIA

Marcela is a proud mother of a CI user and a business woman!

Marcela Varela Mother of Nicolas Salazar

"The hearing solution has had a huge impact on Nico, as it allowed him to become a hearing child again and has enhanced his unique ability to learn every day without any limitations, just like any other hearing child."

His story:

Nicolás was born with normal hearing and used to speak with his grandmother on the phone daily. At two and a half years old, his preschool noticed that he wasn't following instructions, and at home, he no longer reacted to the shout of "GOAL" during the 2018 World Cup. When he was taken for a hearing test, a 30% hearing loss was discovered, despite a previous normal diagnosis. After several tests, ventilation tubes were placed, and he began using hearing aids. However, his hearing continued to deteriorate rapidly. During a consultation with the ENT specialist, significant hearing loss was confirmed in his right ear, and a cochlear implant was recommended. He received the implant in June 2019. Today, five years later, Nicolás hears again and lives a normal life, which has been a miracle and a blessing.



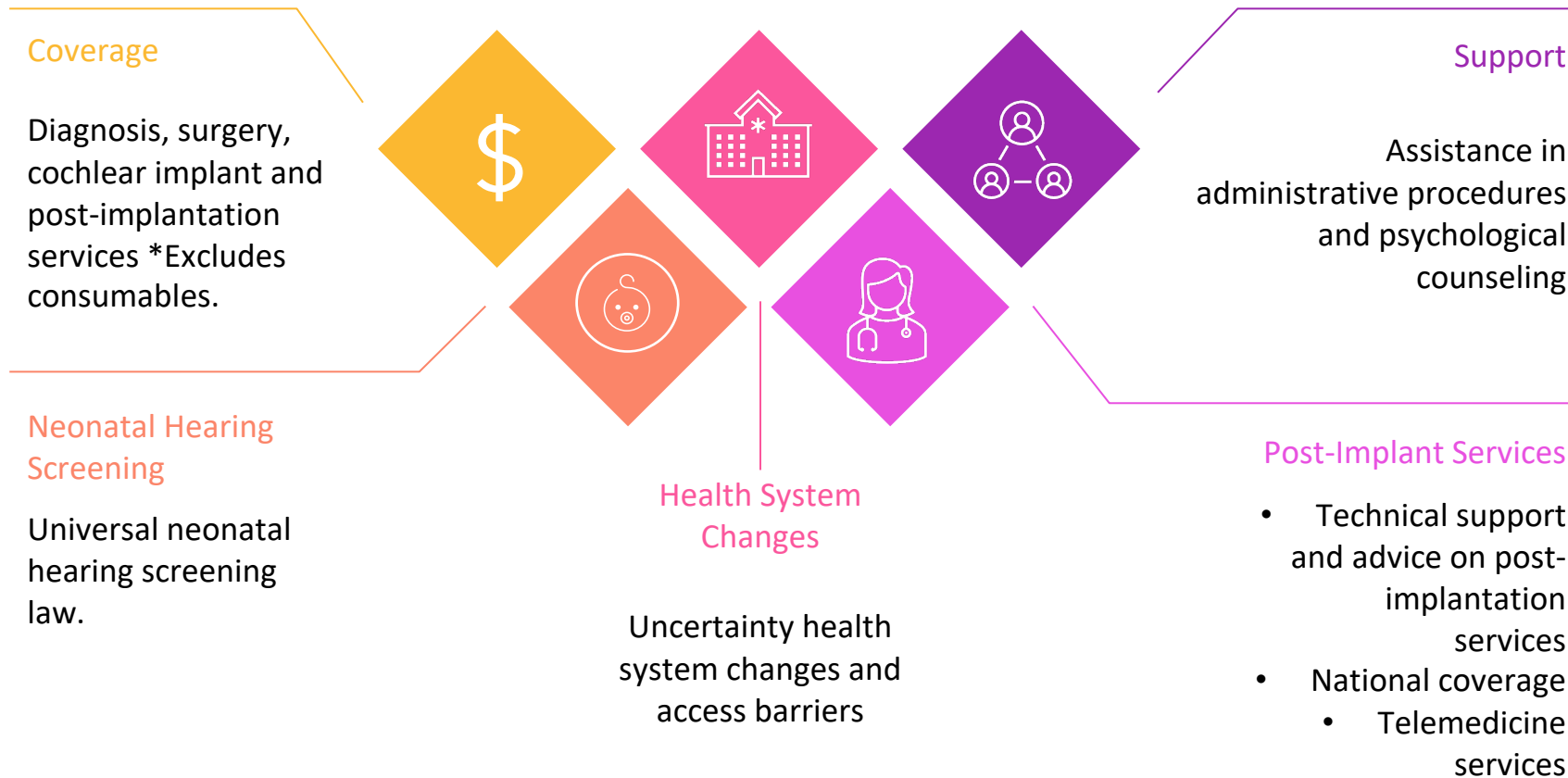
“My bionic ear has given me the joy of hearing the sounds around me, and it has given me the confidence and security to face any obstacle in life. It’s true that, with perseverance, anything is possible”.



Colombia

- Population: 50 million people
- Language: Spanish
- Landmark: Amazon jungle, Bogota, The Coffee triangle.
- Famous for: Colombian Coffee, Colombian Arts and Artists, Diversity of Flora and Fauna and Emeralds

Health Services in Colombia



Principal challenges and barriers in Colombia

Diagnostic Barriers

- Limited access to diagnostic tests
- Insufficient trained personnel

Economic Barriers

- Inequality in access
- Costs such as travel to specialized centers in remote areas

Administrative Barriers

- Waiting times for paperwork and authorizations.
- Unknown regulations by health care providers.



Information and Education Barriers

Insufficient information to patients, their families and educators.

Technical and Medical Barriers

- Availability of specialized centers
 - Device maintenance

Barriers During Post-Implant Rehabilitation

- Access to hearing rehabilitation therapies
 - Continuity of rehabilitation
- Low levels of family and social support

Psychological and Social Barriers

- Stigmatization
 - Emotional adaptation
- Social and schooling inclusion

Cochlear Implant User Rights



Health awareness as a fundamental right



Cochlear implant users have the right to file a tutela action, a legal recourse to demand immediate access to health services.



Collaboration with patient associations that offer support, legal guidance, and education for the community.



Participation with patient organizations to strengthen the collective voice and help make problems visible to health authorities.