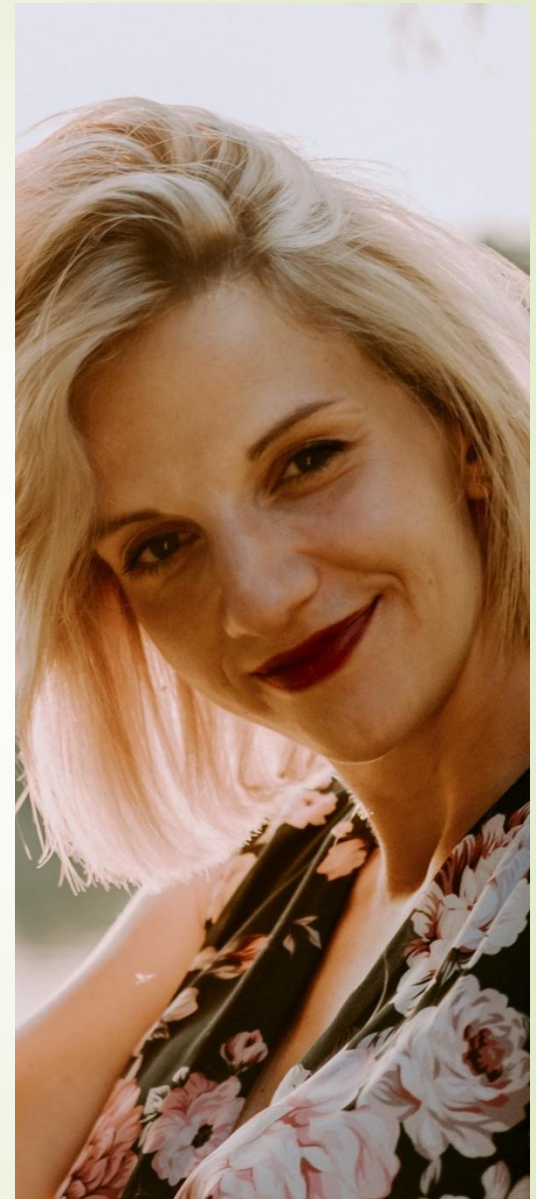




**How my work helped me come to terms
with my hearing loss**

About me:

- Agata Mikusek
- User of 2 MED-EL implants (from 2008 i 2023)
- First hearing test when I was 12: hearing loss especially at high frequencies (partial deafness)
- First hearing aids in high school



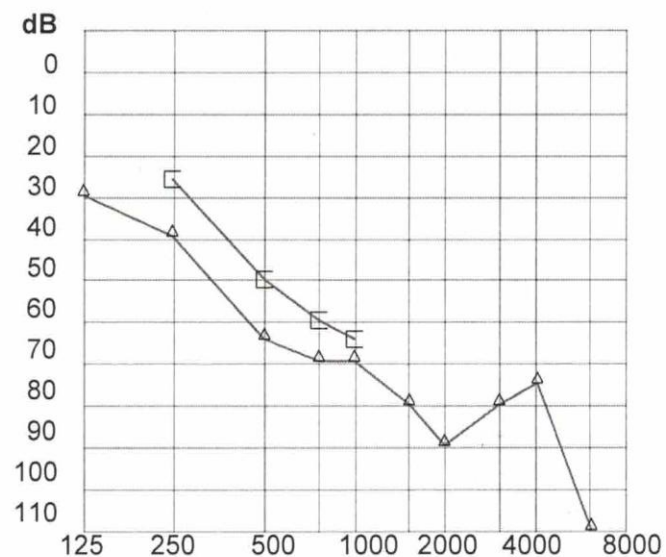
Hearing test before first implant

Audiogram

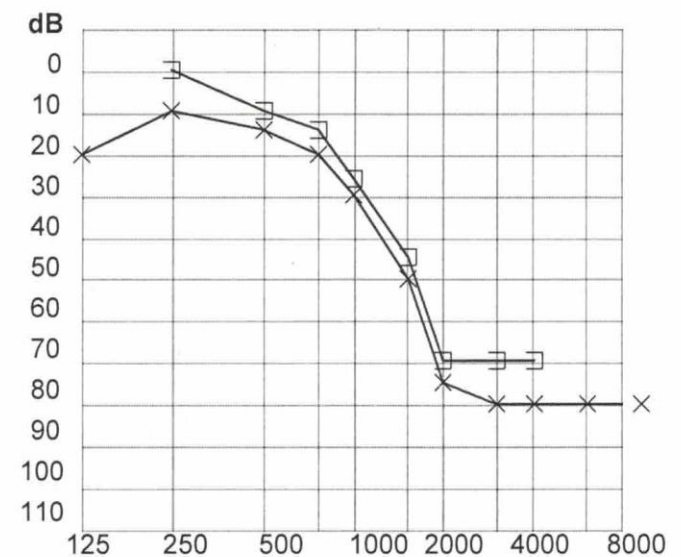
8.08.2007

55901 WIECZOREK AGATA

Ucho Prawe



Ucho Lewe





How did I feel after being diagnosed with hearing loss?

- I couldn't believe it.
- I wondered why this happened to me.
- I was ashamed.
- I felt like no one understood me.
- I didn't believe that hearing aids would help me.
- When I finally had them, I didn't like wearing them and felt embarrassed about them.
- I couldn't admit to others that I had hearing problems.

Between two worlds: the hearing and the deaf.

- People didn't reject me — I was the one who withdrew.
- I pretended to hear (I laughed, nodded).
- I didn't know how to say: I have hearing loss, I didn't hear you, please repeat.



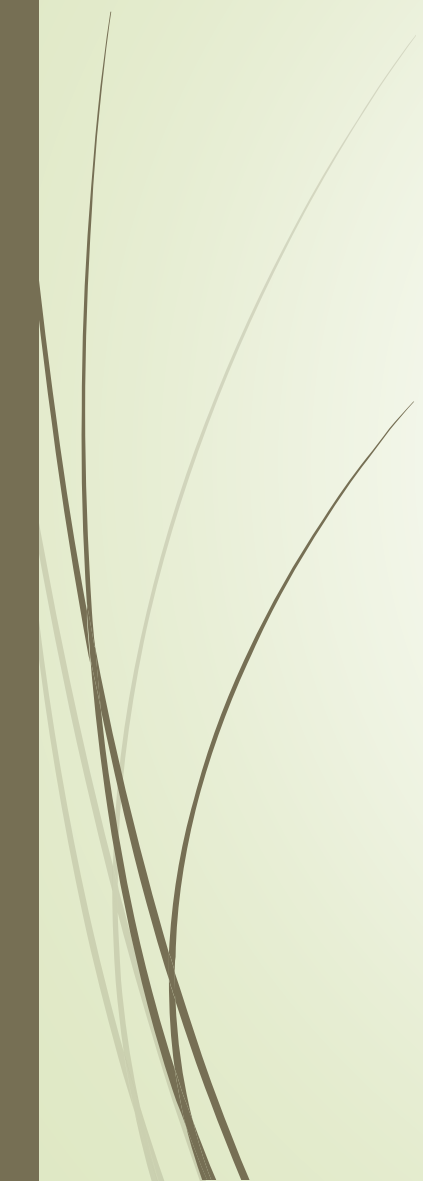
Everything changed when...

- ... I went on my first rehabilitation camp and met other people like me.
- I felt understood
- I felt that I wasn't alone
- I felt that it was possible to live with it
- I wanted to help others facing the same issues





Why did I become an audiologist?

- After my studies (something completely different – journalism and correctional studies), I didn't know what I wanted to do in life.
 - I started learning sign language to better understand the world of the Deaf
 - I realized that I wanted to support others with hearing loss by sharing my knowledge, personal experience, and emotional support.
- 

Me as an Audiologist

How it started...

- ▶ I wrote a cover letter to Prof. Henryk Skarżyński, my doctor and the director of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing
- ▶ I got a job as a secretary in the Implant Department: I answered phone calls, scheduled appointments, and organized the work of the department
- ▶ I attended a specialized audiology training program and received certification as a hearing aid specialist.

How it's going...

- ▶ I assess patients and program their cochlear implants
- ▶ I explain the rehabilitation process after cochlear implant surgery to patients.
- ▶ I provide support and advice on living with a cochlear implant
- ▶ I demonstrate that it's possible to live a normal life with deafness.





Key Aspects of Understanding a Patient's Problems:

- **Attentive Listening:**
A good specialist takes the time to listen to the patient in order to understand their experiences, concerns, and perspective.
- **Identifying the Root Causes:**
Understanding means getting to the heart of the problem, not just addressing the visible symptoms.
- **Individual Approach:**
Every patient is different, and by understanding their unique issues, the specialist can tailor the diagnosis and therapy to their needs.
- **Comfort and Trust:**
When a patient feels heard and understood, it creates an atmosphere of trust, which is essential for effective cooperation and treatment.

As CI users, we understand more and inspire greater trust in patients.

- Psychological support
- Understanding the problem
- Professional counseling
- Greater trust from the patient
- Individualized approach



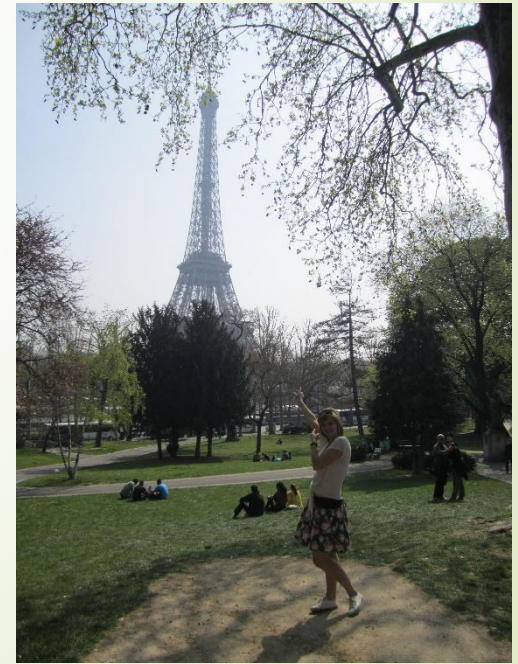
=

Satisfied patient

We need to
make others
realize that
hearing loss
doesn't have
to be a barrier.



Places





AND PEOPLE





I 
HEARING

Thank you for your attention