

WELCOME TO CIICA

Cochlear Implant International Community of Action

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 unseen 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 potentially modifiable risk factors for dementia (*Lamb & Archbold, 2019; Livingstone et al, 2024*).
- Age related hearing loss is the 4th most common cause of Years Lost to Disability (YLD) globally (*Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Lancet, 2024*).
- WHO (2021) estimates that unaddressed hearing loss costs governments nearly US\$ one trillion annually.

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You lose self-esteem, you don't want to mix, anything like that because that's what deafness does to you.

Adult

COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION CAN CHANGE THIS:

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The cochlear implant is one of the most successful of all neural prostheses developed to date.

WHO, 2021

Today's hearing technologies including cochlear implants (CI) are proven effective and cost effective in both adults and children. However, globally access to CI is low and provision inadequate.

WHO 2021

www.ciicanet.org



The CIICA network is active in 72 countries, addressing the global gap in cochlear implant provision for deaf adults, young people and children.

THE GLOBAL GAP IN PROVISION FOR CI

Globally, only **1 in 20** who could benefit from an implant receive one.

This gap in provision results in a massive personal and public health issue in dealing with the consequences of unaddressed hearing loss; the technology is available to address this gap.

CIICA'S GOALS:

To coordinate a global network 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.

To increase access to the provision of CI and lifelong services globally.



COCHLEAR IMPLANTS CHANGE LIVES, AND SAVE SOCIETY MONEY:

- In adults they have been shown to improve quality of life, reduce depression, improve employability, and improve cognitive functioning.

[ADULT-CI-ADVOCACY-BRIEFING.pdf \(ciicanet.org\)](#)

- In children they have been shown to have a positive impact on language development educational outcomes and social and emotional development.

[CHILDREN-CI-WRH-BRIEFING.pdf \(ciicanet.org\)](#)

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My daughter now attends mainstream school with her friends, enjoys music and singing....

Parent

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I feel that so much of my previous life has been restored, regaining my pride and ability to contribute actively in society on an equal basis.

Adult CI user

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Hearing loss has real health consequences and a huge economic impact on individual and society – we need to take action.

- WHO (2021) estimate that for every US\$ invested in ear and hearing care there is a return on investment of US\$16.
- Born deaf children with two 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](#))

CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION

CIICA is a global network, registered as an NGO based in Brussels. Over 600 individuals and over 100 organisations are active in 72 countries is led by CI users and family groups, working closely with professional organisations, industry, 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.

CIICA RESOURCES

We have a wide range of online resources please visit [ciicanet.org/resources](#)

These include Children's Briefing, Adults Living Guidelines, Guide to Advocacy, Why Hearing Well Matters, Young People with CI Matter and a report from our Global consultation with Adult CI Users.

CIICA EVENTS

We hold regular online events, conversations and consultations visit [ciicanet.org/events](#)

Join CIICA to make change happen and to share resources and activities

Email info@ciicanet.org

www.ciicanet.org



CIICA MEMBERS WANT TO SEE:

- Universal Hearing screening for Children and Adults, leading to early referral for CI where appropriate.
- Greater public awareness of the unseen impact of HL and the benefits of CI.
- Consistent, well-known guidelines for access to ensure that all those who need an implant can access CI service.
- Rehabilitation and to be available from the beginning as part of implant provision.
- Quick and ready access to technology support when required, including spare parts such as processors, cables and coils, regular processor upgrades.
- Person-centred services, with access to appropriate peer group support and counselling services.
- Funding to ensure sustainability of services and access to CI services throughout life.

NOTES

For a summary of the Internationally recognised standards of care that CIICA supports see New Global Guidelines on Standards of Care for Adult Cochlear Implantation. To be found at www.euroci.eu and at www.ciicanet.org Full paper (Buchman et al, 2020) on these International Consensus Statements to be found at www.adultheating.com

Cochlear implants for deaf children: CIICA Briefing at 01027_CIICA-CHILDRENS-BRIEFING_4PP-2.pdf (ciicanet.org)

Lamb, B. and Archbold, S. Hearing Care, Cognitive Decline and Dementia: A public health challenge for an opportunity for healthy ageing? April 2019. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332753002_

Global incidence, prevalence, years lived with disability (YLDs), disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 371 diseases and injuries in 204 countries and territories and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. The Lancet (2024) VOLUME 403, ISSUE 10440, P2133-2161, MAY 18, 2024

Living Guidelines for Adult CI: CIICA summary at CIICA's summary of The Living Guidelines for Adult CI – CIICA (ciicanet.org)

Livingston et al., Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: The Lancet, Vol. 404, No. 10452. Published: July 31, 2024

Neve, Olaf M et al., Cost-benefit Analysis of Cochlear Implants: A Societal Perspective. Ear & Hearing 2021.

WHO World Report on Hearing 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/world-report-on-hearing>

