Single-Sided Deafness & Cochlear Implants

The Lived Experience

Brian Cleary

October 22nd 2026

Background

- Sudden sensorineural hearing loss December 2021
- Cochlear Implant 1 year later
- Tinnitus relief on activation
- Quality of Life
- Hearing



NOISY SILENCE

A Day in the Life



BRIAN CLEARY

20 JAN 2023



Suddenly SSD

- Worse than you think
- Loud tinnitus on waking
- Sorry x 300
- Hyperacusis
  - Children
  - Work
  - Social
- Loss of music, podcasts, concerts
- Conditioned against sound

- Accepting less/getting by
- Missing jokes
- Traffic/cycling
- “I’m here!”
- Surprise!
- Isolating
- Listening fatigue
- Losing words?



'The day I walked out with my prosthetic leg was the day my biggest adventure began'

"I named my leg Saoirse as it means freedom in Irish": As part of the Examiner Voices series, we hear from Donegal native Nikki Bradley, an adaptive adventurer who was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, a rare bone cancer as a child.



Adaptive adventurer Nikki Bradley on overcoming her most difficult challenge yet.

Wed, 06 Mar, 2024 - 06:00

Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

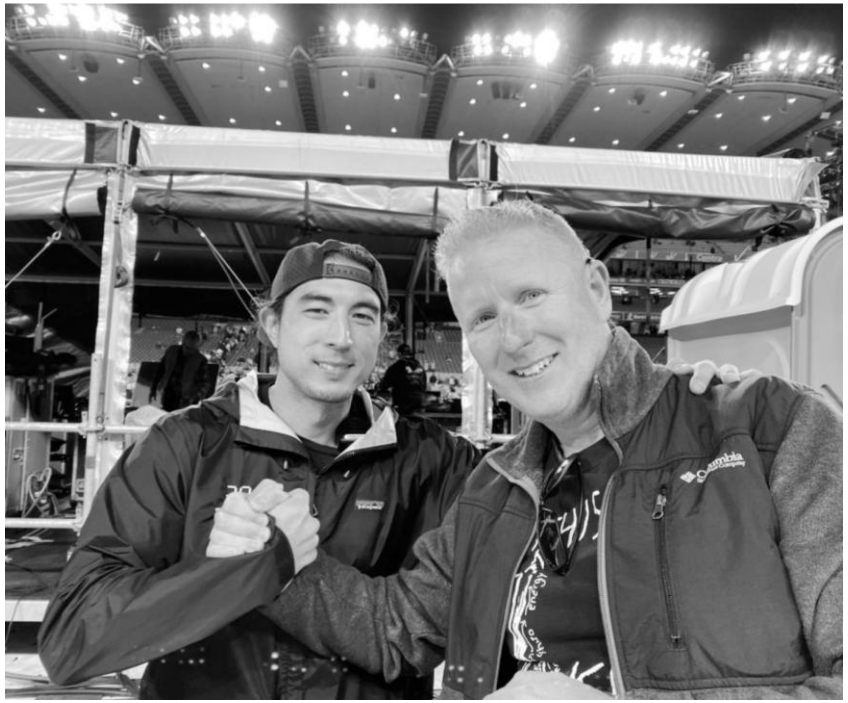
Cochlear implants for adults: protocol for a health technology assessment

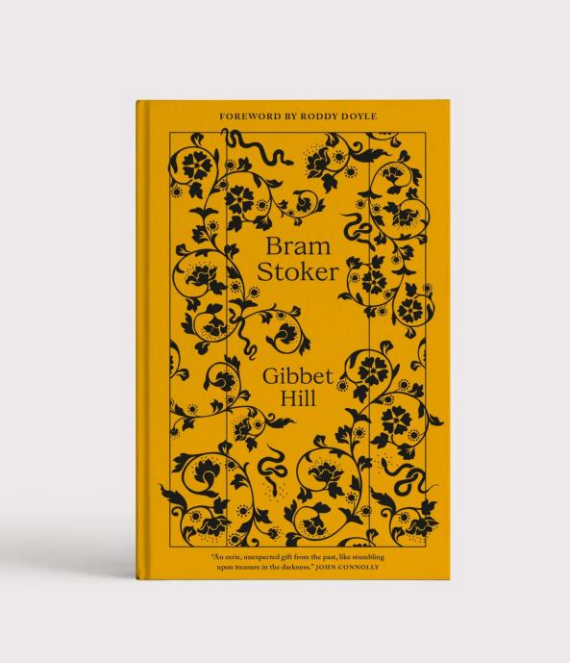
Publication date: 1 September 2026

CI for SSD
What Changed?

- Worse than you think
- Loud tinnitus on waking
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- Better than I expected
- Tinnitus gone (mostly)
- Sorry x 30
- Hyperacusis gone
- Playing music
- Podcasts, audiobooks
- Concerts x 30
- Embracing sound
- Beyond getting by
- Socially included
- Spatial hearing (some)
- Opened lots of new doors
- Hearing loss prevention?
- No auditory fatigue
- Complex sound environments
- Writing





Parting Thoughts

- SSD warrants intervention- restore binaural input
- People who need and want a CI should be able to get one (or two!)
- Hearing gains
- Quality of life enhancement
- Significant long-term societal benefit
- Lifelong support and auditory rehabilitation essential
- Patients and advocates can make a difference

ÉISTIGÍ- Early Identification of Susceptibility to Gentamicin-induced Hearing Loss





