Sustainable Hearing Care for Patients and the Planet

What can we do differently?



Melis Durmaz Yıldırım

Sr. Language Specialist / Translator, RWS Group
International Communications Coordinator, Cochlear Implant Association (CID), Türkiye
Bimodal User of a CI (2+ year) and an HA (25+ year)

What is sustainability?

Meeting today's needs without using up tomorrow’s.

Planet

Less waste, less travel, less carbon footprint.

People

Services that include everyone, for as long as they need them.

Pocket

Costs that families and health systems can keep paying.

Responsible support over time:

Will the service that helps us today will still be there in 10, 30, 50 years?

A cochlear implant is a lifelong relationship

The surgery happens once. Everything else keeps going.



Implant day

One surgery

Fitting and rehab

Learning to hear

Everyday parts

Batteries, cables, coils

Repairs

Because life happens

Upgrades

A new processor every few years

90 years

A child implanted today may still need these services for the rest of this century.

Where the system quietly leaks

We live in the system, so we are the first to see the drips.

Replacing too early

A new device before the old one has finished its job.

Repeat tests and trips

Travel that better follow-up, or care at home, could avoid.

Information that does not travel

Maps, settings and histories rebuilt from scratch.

Others that add up

Single-use instead of rechargeable. Paper instead of digital.



Sustainable, but for whom?

Eco-ableism: green choices that unintentionally create new barriers for people with disabilities.

Where resources are plentiful

"Less plastic in the box, please."

- Slimmer packs
- Fewer spare parts included
- The goal is to avoid waste

Where resources are scarce

"Could we have the whole box, please?"

- More spare parts needed, not fewer
- The full CI kit is often not handed over, because of cost
- The goal is to keep people hearing

Same planet, different priorities.

How we keep services going, and greener

Repair first
The first conversation, not the last resort.

Share and reuse
CID's spare parts pool: donated parts go to users who need them, then come back.

Offer care closer to home
Remote checks mean fewer trips. Most brands offer them now.

Make the records travel
Maps and settings should follow the user, not the clinic.

Provide right-sized kits
The full kit where it is needed, a leaner one where it is not.

Listen to users
Because we notice the warning signs first.

The greenest replacement is the one you never need to make.

A new chapter: fully implantable devices

No external processor. Fewer parts to lose, charge, replace or ship.

Already here

The first fully implantable cochlear implant is now available in Europe, and more are in clinical trials.

What it changes

No cables, coils or external batteries. Nothing to carry in the kit, nothing to lose at the beach.

Why it matters

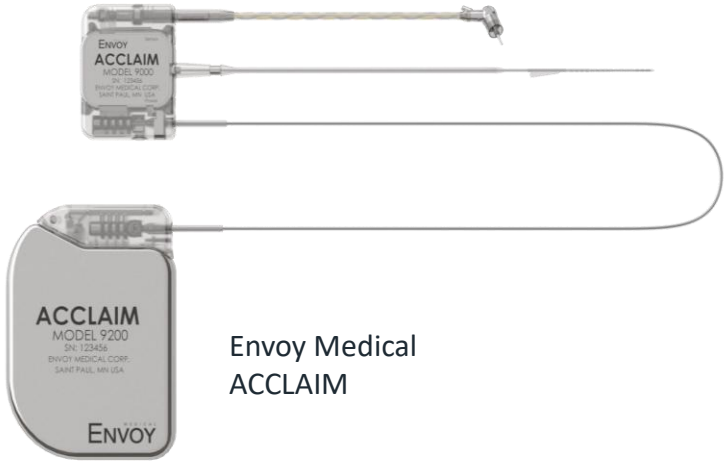
A real chance to cut everyday waste for the next generation of users.

Still to be worked out

- The battery is inside, so replacing it one day means surgery
- Upgrades are no longer a quick swap in the clinic
- Long-term data is still being collected



MED-EL
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Envoy Medical
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Users are part of the chain

The work starts with our needs, and the results end up in our daily lives.



Our needs

Why the work begins

The work

Research, products, services

Our daily lives

Where the results end up

Where the NGOs come in

CID has worked with CI users and families in Türkiye since 2001.

We listen

Panels across Türkiye, where implant users tell us what they are struggling with.

We pass it on

What we hear goes to clinicians, companies and researchers.

We bring people together

Users, families, brands, audiologists and researchers in the same room.

We fill gaps where we can

The spare parts pool is one example.

We stay in touch with users for years, long after a project ends.

We all hold a piece in the puzzle



Users

Tell us what fails first.



Clinicians

Offer repair before replacement.



Researchers

Measure what lasts, not only what is new.



Industry

Design for repair and long-term parts.



Government

Fund the lifetime, not only the surgery.

Let’s hear, live and shine with CIs!

EURO-CIU on Instagram

CID on Instagram

Thank you!