hearalways

Newsletter

December 2006

Nucleus® Freedom™
Upgrade for improved performance

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Lifting Your Performance

Improve Everyday Hearing with Cochlear Baha Accessories

Cochlear™ Baha® accessories are designed to help Cochlear Baha users experience the world of sound in even more listening environments. Whether you are listening to music or maintaining and cleaning your sound processor, there are accessories that can lead to improved and easier everyday performance.

Baha Audio Adaptor

The Baha Audio Adaptor allows Baha users to experience direct audio input from MP3 players, TVs, computers and stereos. This accessory allows you to connect directly to the sound from most audio products, allowing you to enjoy your favourite music on your CD player, catch a movie at home on television or listen to an educational CD ROM. The Baha Audio Adaptor is simply connected to the audio equipment via the microphone jack, and plugs directly into the electrical input socket of the sound processor.

Two versions are available to suit both the Cordelle II bodyworn unit (part number 90067) and Baha head worn sound processors (part number 90065). For bilateral Baha users, a specially designed connection cord is available (part number 90068).

To order the Baha Audio Adaptor, simply contact your clinic, Cochlear Customer Service or your local Cochlear office or representative.

The Phonak Microlink™ Baha® FM Receiver

Phonak has developed a miniaturised FM receiver for users of the Baha Divino™ and Baha® Compact. It enables wearers to use their sound processor with Phonak FM transmitters including HandyMic, Tel-Com and Campus S.

For further information and orders of the Microlink™ Baha, please contact your clinic, your local Phonak distributor or log on to www.phonak.com.

Caring for your Baha® sound processor

It's important to take care of your Cochlear Baha sound processor for best performance. Cochlear offers a variety of products to help you maintain your sound processor for improved everyday hearing.

Regular cleaning of the abutment and surrounding skin is very important. The Cleaning Brush is a soft, gentle and effective item for maintaining hygiene and cleanliness. To order, quote part number HCB 738.

For an active lifestyle, the Safety Line is used to connect the sound processor firmly to clothing. A Safety Line is included with each sound processor, however if you require any extras, please quote part number 90711 to order.

Humidity and your Baha sound processor

It is important to prevent moisture from building up in your sound processor. Moisture build-up can be a particular problem if you live in a very humid area or if you perspire heavily.

By taking some simple steps to prevent moisture build-up, you can ensure your sound processor is always working at its best. Products are readily available to help deal with moisture related problems.

Drying kits are available and one example is the Dry & Store® Global unit, which is an electrical appliance that removes moisture, kills germs and deodorises your sound processor.

Dry & Store® Global

The Dry & Store® Global conditioning system is now available for Baha users to ensure you can achieve the best possible performance from your sound processor.

Moisture can cause corrosion of battery contacts and other electronic parts leading to poor hearing performance. The Dry & Store Global is an easy to use electrical appliance that removes moisture, killing germs and sanitising your speech processor while you sleep, with an automatic 'power off' function.

The moisture is captured by a removable Dry-Brik® desiccant or reusable metal can desiccant. Replacement Dry-Brik® desiccants are available from Cochlear in convenient six packs. Reusable Metal Can desiccants are now also available from Cochlear.

Take advantage of the 'Dry and Store' promotion featured later in the newsletter. To order or for more information on these accessories, please contact your clinic or Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819.

Metal Can Desiccant

Dry & Store

Upgrading to Nucleus Freedom In Their Own Words

We asked some recipients to share their thoughts after experiencing the new Nucleus® Freedom™ speech processor.

"After using the Freedom speech processor for one month, I find that Calvin is able to pick up softer sounds and he can hear and sing better now. The new speech processor filters out noise and he is much happier with the lighter Freedom speech processor."
Annie Khoo, mother of 4 year old Calvin Ong, Penang, Malaysia

"The singular most outstanding feature of the speech processor that I enjoy most would be the splashproof feature that allows it to function well with perspiration and humidity. I'm a very active sportsperson. Freedom is able to tolerate high humidity conditions and sweat, which is made worse by Singapore's high humidity."
Joseph Heng, Singapore

"With Freedom, I can pickup more sounds at home, in office meetings and while driving my motorbike, so that I feel I have better control when driving. The experience of listening to music is really good and it has improved my music understanding. Being splashproof really helps in day to day activities. I no longer need to wait until my hair dries after bathing before using the speech processor. I don't need to worry about perspiration in Delhi's summer heat."
Deepak Gupta, Delhi, India

Nucleus Freedom for Nucleus® 24 recipients

Upgrade for Significantly Improved Performance

In 2006, the Co-operative Research Centre conducted a comprehensive clinical trial with 40 Nucleus® 24 recipients aged between 17 and 85 years old.

The subjects had an average of six years experience with a cochlear implant prior to the upgrade to Nucleus Freedom. The clinical trial studied the comparison of hearing performance with a recipient's former speech processor compared with Nucleus Freedom. During the clinical trial, all speech tests were conducted in controlled conditions and recipients were required to complete comparative questionnaires and battery logs.

Recipients were fitted with a Nucleus Freedom speech processor containing a converted MAP from their original speech processor (SPrint™/ESPrit™ 3G) and a new Nucleus Freedom MAP. Listening performance was then compared between these MAPs. Subjects were not informed which MAPs were converted or newly used.

During the clinical trial, recipients were tested in quiet conditions with soft speech levels using their own speech processor, and with two Nucleus Freedom MAPs. A significant 7.1% improvement in word scores was shown with a Nucleus Freedom compared to the recipients own speech processor. This indicates that recipients hear soft and distant speech more easily with Nucleus Freedom than with their existing speech processor.

Recipients were then tested in noisy conditions with their own speech processor, and again with two Nucleus Freedom MAPs. Results showed that with Nucleus Freedom MAPs, recipients were able to identify sentences in background noise significantly better than with their existing speech processor. Results show a 6.4% improvement in sentence scores with Nucleus Freedom when listening in competing background noise. Throughout the Nucleus Freedom clinical trial, battery life data was collected. Results showed an average battery life* of 58.5 hours with Nucleus Freedom when using 3 x 675 type batteries in the Nucleus Freedom controller. Recipients also used the new Nucleus Freedom Mini BTE Controller, which uses 2 x 675 type batteries. The average recorded battery life for the Nucleus Freedom Mini BTE Controller was 46.3 hours.

As part of the clinical trial, subjects were required to complete a rating questionnaire to compare usability, features and satisfaction with Nucleus Freedom compared to their existing speech processor. Recipients used a rating scale of features to assess their own speech processor, and also rated Nucleus Freedom at two additional intervals post fitting. The demonstrated significant positive differences between Nucleus Freedom and recipients' own speech processors were:

- Greater confidence with the use of the speech processor
- Significantly better telephone use
- Reduced moisture problems
- Increased wearing comfort

For a copy of the brochure 'Nucleus Freedom: Upgrade for significantly improved performance', please contact your Cochlear clinic.

* Battery life will vary according to individual speech processor usage.

Expiring Soon

Exclusive Offers to Upgrade to Nucleus® Freedom™ for Nucleus® 24, Mini and Rechargeable

Cochlear™ recently announced the release of three exciting new innovations that ensure that there's never been a better time to experience Nucleus Freedom – the next generation in high performance cochlear implant technology.

The Freedom speech processor for Nucleus 24 recipients, the Freedom Mini BTE Controller™ and Nucleus® Freedom™ Rechargeable batteries are the latest innovations that allow you to optimise your hearing experience.

Outstanding Performance with Nucleus Freedom

The recent comprehensive multi-centre clinical trial (see previous article), has demonstrated that Nucleus 24 recipients achieve superior performance with the Freedom speech processor when compared with their previous speech processor.

By comparing a standard Freedom MAP to the recipient's former speech processor MAP, indications are that recipients may hear soft and distant speech and can listen in noisy environments more easily with Nucleus Freedom than with their existing speech processor. Recipients demonstrated greater confidence with the use of their speech processor and experienced better telephone use, reduced moisture problems and increased wearer comfort.

Rechargeable Battery and colour options

Nucleus Freedom Mini BTE Controller and colour options

Upgrade before 31 December 2006 to take advantage of exclusive offers

Upgrade now to take advantage of some exciting upgrade offers that expire on 31 December 2006.

Offers for new Nucleus Freedom recipients

New recipients implanted with the Nucleus Freedom implant can also experience more freedom with offers that are valid until 31 December 2006.

Easy finance available

For recipients who require an alternative way to fund their upgrade, Cochlear has partnered with GE Finance to offer financial options. For more information, please contact Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree 1800 620 929. GE Finance options may not be available in all countries.

For more information and pricing, please refer to the recent brochures and material sent by mail or contact your local clinic or Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929, tollfree (NZ) 0800 444 819 or customerservice@cochlear.com.au.

* Some conditions apply to the upgrade promotional offers. Please refer to the information forwarded by mail, or contact Cochlear Customer Service.

Sharing Experiences
The Cochlear Awareness Network

In September 2006, the Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN) for Australia and New Zealand was launched in Sydney at the Cochlear head office. Over twenty of Cochlear's Nucleus and Baha recipients were brought together from across Australia and New Zealand for the launch of this initiative.

The Cochlear Awareness Network (CAN) is a group of committed volunteers who are either Cochlear Nucleus or Baha recipients. Each and every one of them has had their lives changed through either receiving a Cochlear implant or a Cochlear Baha.

Cochlear Awareness Network

The primary function of the Cochlear Awareness Network is to spread the word about Cochlear implants and Cochlear Baha, through volunteers. The volunteers share their personal stories of receiving a Cochlear implant or Cochlear Baha through various speaking engagements and personal meetings.

Their role is that of an ambassador, talking about their experience in the hope of bringing hearing to more people than ever before. They offer support, but not advice. They share their knowledge, but they are not medical professionals. The volunteers are not employees of Cochlear™ and participate in these activities in their own time.

Goals of the Cochlear Awareness Network

- To raise community awareness of Cochlear implants and Cochlear Baha
- To ensure that candidates receive correct information about Cochlear products
- To advise candidates on the next steps for receiving a Cochlear implant or Cochlear Baha
- To delight audiences with their personal stories
- To bring hearing to more people than ever before

Members of the Cochlear Awareness Network come together on a regular basis and interact between each other, providing advice and support. The Cochlear Awareness Network is also established in many other countries across the world and there are plans to make this network a worldwide one. Discussions are also under way to launch similar programs across Asia Pacific.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Cochlear Awareness Network, please contact Mischelle Edmunds (medmunds@cochlear.com.au).

Holiday Celebrations

with Handmade Chinese Decorations

The hearing impaired population of China is estimated at around 72 million, with many unable to find suitable employment. With this in mind, Hearts and Hands began as a small handcraft business in 2000, providing training in patchwork and quilting for the young hearing impaired. It now employs 20 hearing impaired and disabled workers from the community of Kunming. Hearts and Hands produces a wide range of handcrafted goods and soft furnishings. Catalogues can be obtained by emailing heartsandhands@psmail.net.

To celebrate the forthcoming Christmas and Chinese New Year holidays, Cochlear has made available a set of handcrafted decorations including a chinese lantern, quilted holly leaf (set of two), heart, sequined candy cane, dove and chinese silk decoration. Profits from the sale of these decorations will contribute towards the expansion of the Hearts and Hands workshop space and will go towards the opening a new store in Kunming. To order, or for more information please contact Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819. Available for a limited time until stocks last.

Strive and Thrive
School Readiness Hints and Tips for Parents and Teachers

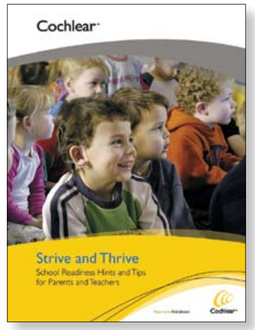
Starting school is an exciting and daunting day in every child's life. It's a big day for their parents too! For children with a hearing impairment, and their parents, commencing at a mainstream school may be the culmination of years of preparation and anticipation.

Attendance at a regular school does not signal the end of support from Cochlear, rather the beginning of the next phase in helping children to become competent communicators and learners. This is where 'Strive and Thrive' comes in. This booklet provides practical hints and tips for parents and teachers as a child prepares for their first day of school as parent preparation at home begins in the year before the child is about to walk through the school gates, not just the weeks or months before.

There are many ways in which parents and teachers can help children with a hearing impairment survive and thrive in a mainstream educational setting. This booklet covers many practical topics such as: Conversational Competence, Going to School: A General Guide to Basic Skills, Vocabulary at School and for the Classroom.

To order your copy of 'Strive and Thrive: School Readiness Hints and Tips for Parents and Teachers' please contact you Cochlear clinic or distributor*

* The product may not be available in all markets.



Coming Soon
New Professional Habilitation Product: Di-EL First Words™

Children with a hearing impairment and their families are encouraged at an early age to seek intervention and support to develop language skills. Di-EL First Words™ (Diary of Early Language) is a new CD habilitation resource that is ideal for use by professionals providing habilitation to a child newly diagnosed with a hearing impairment.

Di-EL First Words is a diary technique through which parents record their child's first 100 single words, in collaboration with their habilitation program. This enables parents to become more involved in the habilitation process and provides valuable information for habilitationists, teachers and speech therapists for supporting speech development.

Based on the language assessments of Rossetti, Reynell and MacArthur, Di-EL First Words was developed by Pauline Nott at the Co-operative Research Centre for Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Innovation (CRC). The data from a child's diary can be used to determine when and how to promote early language development in children with a hearing loss.

The CD consists of a database to maintain language acquisition records, video clips to explain specific types of language being captured, parent feedback on using Di-EL First Words, printable resources, the Di-EL First Words validation study published in the Deafness and Education International Journal in 2005 and a self-navigated tutorial.

This flexible and practical program is available in English, can be used through a written diary, email or regular phone calls, and is also applicable for all children with a hearing impairment, not exclusive to children with a cochlear implant.

This product will be made available in the coming months and some clinics will adopt this tool to support parents in the habilitation process. Please contact your clinic to discuss availability and any other queries regarding your child's habilitation.*

* This product may not be available in all markets.

My Story: Katrina Oliver
A Journey to 'Stereo Sound'

I was a normal happy go-lucky little girl until I was 4 years old when my life changed completely by contracting meningitis in December 1974. Gone was my life as I knew it, only to be replaced by a world of silence.

Katrina is a Cochlear Awareness Network volunteer and a recent Cochlear bilateral implant recipient.

To read her complete story, log on to
http://hearalways.optin.com.au/hearalways/december2006.html

Diary of my Bilateral Switch-on

Monday 6th November
I was switched on today at the South Australian Cochlear Implant Centre (SACIC). When it came to switch-on, it felt like there was this huge rush of power for about 20 seconds, then it settled and I felt like I was in a tunnel and it was very, very windy. I could hear my audiologist and myself talking, although we did sound a little weird.

My audiologist gave me a sound test and I was able to get the sounds correct. I was very surprised as it was so different to my first switch-on, which was 8 years ago, and to get to the level of what I was hearing today took me about two weeks back then. As my audiologist explained, my brain has already been 'wired' for sound so it's a little easier the second time around.

Tomorrow I will be back again for more fine-tuning.

Tuesday 7th November
When I turn my new implant off I feel really deaf! I think my brain is slowly adjusting to hearing with the two implants. Today my audiologist and I went through all my electrodes again and when he turned me back on he sounded a lot different. I still feel as if it's very windy but when I was speech tested on my listening skills I got 98% accuracy. I really could not believe it, nor could my audiologist.

Traveling home in the car I turned on the radio and listened to it with all the traffic noise. Normally with the one implant I can't hear the radio unless its quite loud, the kids are not in the car and there is not so much road noise going on. But I was able to hear the radio and follow the conversation – normally I would not be able to understand with the one implant.

Thursday 9th November
My speech is becoming a lot clearer and I notice that I can now tell where sounds are coming from. Tonight I took the dog for a walk and I could hear a dog barking from a lot further away and I could tell what side of the road the dog was barking from. I managed to hear a jogger come up behind me so I was able to get out of the way before our dog Kelly, could have a go at him. I can also hear cars traveling from further away and know from which direction they are coming, which is great for safety.

Monday 13th November
Today is exactly one week since switch-on.

I had been experiencing a humming noise which would disappear when I was using both speech processors together. Today my audiologist figured out why this was occurring. My original speech processor, that is on my left ear, can only access 20 electrodes, whereas the Freedom BTE speech processor (on my right ear) is accessing all 22 electrodes and those two electrodes are the two highest ones. My brain does not understand these sounds yet and therefore what I am hearing with the Freedom is sounding like a ringing noise. We have now dulled those sounds a little and as my brain adjusts to hearing them we will slowly bring those electrodes back to where they should be.

I was very happy when I left the SACIC today – I feel normal and I can hear so much better now. Sound seems so much 'crisper' and 'sharper' having the two implants and I can hear so much more and am enjoying testing myself on 'where is that sound coming from'. I also tried out the phone, with the T-switch on and it worked! I sat and had quite a long conversation with my mum – although I did say 'what' a couple of times, but all in all I was very happy with the result.

Compared to 8 years ago – I would not be hearing what I am hearing now after only one week and I am looking forward to achieving so much more over the coming weeks and months with my new bilateral implant, I am also looking forward to upgrading my original speech processor shortly. Overall I am really pleased that I took the plunge to go bilateral and look forward to enjoying hearing everything now in 'stereo' sound.

Travel Tips
Air Travel with a Cochlear Implant System

Security Systems at Airports

Metal Detector Systems, such as those used at airports, utilise a strong electromagnetic field to detect metal objects on the person passing through. As the cochlear implant is made from metal, the parts in the implant system may be detected when passing through airport security systems and could set off the alarm.

Additionally the strong electromagnetic fields used could interfere with the microphone input of the speech processor and cause sound disturbances.

Therefore, people with cochlear implants are recommended to not pass through Metal Detector Systems at airports. Instead, inform the operating personnel about the implanted device and ask for a personal scan, excluding the head. Make sure that the speech processor is turned off during this procedure.

As an added precaution, recipients should carry their Cochlear Implant Patient Identification Card with them at all times.

And as a further note, x-raying of the external equipment can be done without any harm to the device.

Before and During the flight

All electronic devices including speech processors, emit electromagnetic fields which can potentially interfere with aircraft systems. Therefore it is recommended that flight attendants be notified immediately of the use of a cochlear implant system, so they can advise of the safety measures appropriate for that type of aircraft.

This is particularly important for smaller aircraft which rely upon magnetic direction finding compasses. The instructions of airline personnel must be followed at all times.

What's Ochi™ up to now?

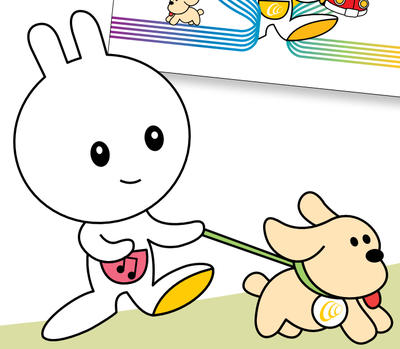
Playtime Sticker Fun & Colouring-In Book

In our September issue of Hear Always, we introduced Ochi™, our special new friend from Cochlear for all Asia Pacific recipients. Ochi loves to laugh and play and has lots of fun riding his bike, enjoying ice cream and walking his dog. To celebrate the arrival of Ochi, we have enclosed playtime stickers featuring some of Ochi's favourite activities. These fun stickers can be used on pencil cases, books and everywhere else imaginable!

'Ochi's Wonderful World of Sound' colouring in book will soon be available. Ochi and his friends, Kylie the Koala, Appu the Elephant, Ali the Orangutan and Bang Bang the Panda love to play and enjoy all of the wonderful sounds in the world around them, until they discover that Kylie the Koala is sad because she can't hear all the beautiful sounds of the world. As Ochi is always there to look after his friends, he helps Kylie the Koala by accompanying her on her journey of receiving a cochlear implant.

In the coming months, you will begin to see Ochi introduced across many of our Cochlear communications. As well as regular updates in this newsletter, Ochi will have his own range of merchandise including the new Ochi children's backpack and various habilitation products.

To enquire about a copy of 'Ochi's Wonderful World of Sound' colouring in book, please contact your clinic or Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819.



Ask the Professional

Industry roundtable to discuss trends and directions for bilateral implantation

During November, surgeons and clinical professionals from Australia, South East Asia and the United States participated in a roundtable discussion on the latest trends and directions for bilateral cochlear implantation – cochlear implantation in both ears. Professor J Thomas Roland, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery at NYU Cochlear Implant Center, based in the United States, attended to discuss and debate the candidacy and outcomes of bilateral implantation.

Increasing numbers of new candidates and existing cochlear implant recipients are now receiving bilateral implants. To date over 3,400 recipients have been implanted bilaterally. Industry trends demonstrate that the number of bilaterally implantees in 2000 has increased seven fold to the number of bilateral recipients in 2006. As the cochlear implant industry matures, there is an increasing amount of research and interest in the area of bilateral cochlear implantation (Figure 1).

Hearing in one ear, can present challenges for listening in noisy environments and the ability to localise sounds. Research has demonstrated that the results for bilateral cochlear implantation in adults and children have shown significant improvement for hearing and communicating in the everyday world. This is evidenced by improved speech recognition abilities (particularly in the presence of background noise) and improved abilities to localise sounds. Binaural hearing offers more natural and balanced sound. (Please see references).

We asked **Professor Bruce Black**, MD, Senior Implant Surgeon, Royal Children's Hospital, Queensland Cochlear Implant Program and the Hear and Say Centre, Brisbane to respond to some questions often raised by parents and recipients considering bilateral implantation.

There is an increasing body of research confirming the benefits of bilateral implantation. What are the potential benefits that existing recipients can expect from sequential implantation, or implantation in the second ear at a time after their first implantation?

Second side implantation seeks several goals: bilateral hearing; sound localization, better speech perception, especially in background noise. At this time, sequential implantation is preferred to simultaneous procedures for medical reasons. Adult and children's bilateral implantations each require different considerations for the clinical team.

Anecdotally, many adult bilateral implant recipients are experiencing increased confidence and clarity in everyday listening environments. Bilateral implantation can make a significant impact upon their daily lives and this in course is becoming increasingly popular.

For children, particularly infants, the decision is complex and should be discussed in detail with the implant team.

For parents with children who are doing quite well with one implant, should they consider a second implant?

A second implant can improve the child's hearing in challenging situations, including the classrooms and other settings. Particularly bilaterally implanted children may be able to acquire speech and language more passively as an unconscious part of everyday life than children implanted in one ear.

Importantly, it is becoming evident that bilateral implantation may be essential for normal central nervous system development. In adults, implants generally fare worse in the long deafened ear. In children, the ability to use an implant falls off with time. These are manifestations of the central nervous system rather than cochlear disuse, a phenomenon seen also in a child with a squint, where the disused eye becomes blind. Therefore second side implantation in the appropriate candidate should not be delayed if possible.

If an infant is to receive bilateral implants, it is best that minimalist surgical techniques should be used to minimize the surgical impact.

There have been significant improvements in cochlear implantation in the last 20 years, with continued technological advancement expected in the future. If recipients are bilaterally implanted now, will they lose the ability to benefit from technology that will become available in coming years?

Several techniques hold promise for the future. These included advancing implant technology and also areas such as growth factors and stem cell research. These may be limited to selected cases and are likely to take years to achieve clinical application. Many implantees, children in particular, cannot afford to wait upon these developments without adverse effects, as above. Utilisation of the second ear by bilateral implantation may thus outweigh the benefits associated with future technology.

Benefits of Bilateral Implantation

For both adults and children there are a number of significant potential benefits of bilateral cochlear implantation.

- **Listening with two ears**: When sounds are heard by both ears the listener becomes aware of specific sounds at softer levels and may communicate with less effort in stressful listening situations.
- **Hearing in noise**: Binaural hearing provides the ability to 'tune in' or to focus on a single speaker when surrounded by background noise. With binaural hearing the auditory system combines and compares the two signals and the brain can better 'filter out' much of the unwanted noise.
- **At least one ear is receiving a 'good' signal**: An unilateral (single) cochlear implant recipient must position themselves so that speakers and other important sound sources are directly in front of them or on the side of the microphone. Bilateral cochlear implantation may allow recipients to listen with greater ease without having to try and position their 'good' ear to the source.
- **Localisation**: Hearing with two ears enables the brain to identify the location of speech and other important sounds.
- **Preference, subjective advantages**: In studies for which experienced bilateral implant users were required to go without the use of one implant for a period of time, their frustration with hearing in only one ear was similar to that described by normal hearing individuals who suddenly lost hearing in one ear. Once they had experienced hearing through two cochlear implants they found the impairment of hearing on only one side to be unsatisfactory.

If you are interested in learning more about bilateral cochlear implants, please contact your cochlear implant team.

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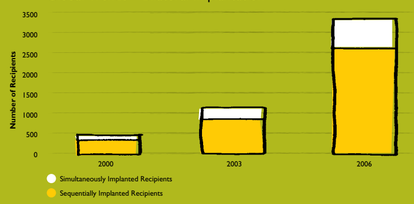
Figure 1:
Global Trends – Bilateral Implantation



Now Available
New Nucleus® Freedom™ Bodyworn Cable (FM)

As part of our commitment to offer choice, the Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn Cable (FM) now allows Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn users to connect to the Phonak MLxS FM receiver.

To connect to FM systems, the following options are now available:

- Cochlear's FM cables
- For wireless FM, using Phonak's Microlink Freedom with the Nucleus Freedom BTE speech processor
- Phonak's MLxS with the Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn speech processor

The MLxS FM receiver is very compact. It is currently one of the smallest miniaturised standard FM receivers on the market and connects easily to the Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn speech processor configuration.

The Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn Cable (FM) is only required specifically for the Phonak MLxS FM system. Other compatible FM systems can be connected using the appropriate FM cables.

Available in silver/grey to match the colour of the Phonak MLxS receiver, the Bodyworn Cable (FM) connects directly to the MLxS receiver with no additional adaptors required.

For parents that want to have the ability to listen to their child's speech processor's sound and loudness, the Nucleus Freedom Monitor earphones (Z60832) can also be connected to the Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn cable (FM) whereas the regular Bodyworn cable should be used for all other accessories.

Nucleus 24 recipients upgrading to the Nucleus Freedom speech processor can use their existing MLxS receiver from their Nucleus 3 system. The MLxS is powered directly by the Nucleus Freedom Bodyworn controller and no additional batteries are required.

To order, or for more information please contact Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819.

Hear Always Electronic Version

In the interest of saving our trees, if you would prefer to receive the newsletter in an electronic format please go to www.cochlear.com/newsletter where you can provide us with your email address.

Winner Announced
NoiZfree Accessory Competition

We are please to confirm that Ayden Graham from Victoria, Australia is the winner of the 'NoiZfree Accessory' competition. Ayden participated in our recent New Products Survey, and as the winner of this competition will receive the recently released NoiZfree Mobile and Audio Accessory. Thanks to all other competition participants that provided some great feedback on ideas on new Cochlear products.

Warm Weather Special
Dry & Store 'Value Pack'

To coincide with the warmer weather and the coming summer holidays, we have released a special Dry and Store 'Value Pack' offer. Until **28 February 2007**, recipients can purchase the Dry & Store Global conditioning system, Dry Brik dessicants (one pack of six) and the recently released reusable Metal Can dessicant for 25% off the local area price, when purchased together.

Both the Metal Can and Dry-Brik desiccant options can be used interchangeably with the Dry & Store Global conditioning system. The Dry-Brik is a convenient option when travelling, whilst the Metal Can is ideal when you are at home with easy access to an oven.

To order or for more information on these accessories, please contact your clinic or Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819.

Coming Soon
Holidaying with the New Cochlear Backpacks

Ideal for gifts or simply enjoying the holiday season, we are pleased to confirm that the new Cochlear Backpacks will soon be available. Available in both adult and child versions, the backpack contains accessories that can be used by recipients when enjoying their active daily lifestyle.

The adult kit contains the backpack, Cochlear cap, CD case, keylight keyring and luggage tag. The child backpack includes a child-sized backpack, Ochi soft toy, Ochi pencil case and pencils, Ochi critter clip (to secure a child's behind the ear speech processor to their clothing), Ochi Colouring-in sheet and the new Cochlear football.

To order, or for more information please contact Cochlear Customer Service on Tollfree (Australia) 1800 620 929 or toll free (NZ) 0800 444 819.

For further information on Cochlear and its products and services visit www.cochlear.com or contact your local Cochlear office or distributor.

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