



LISTEN UP!

Johannesburg Cochlear Implant
News letter
Winter Edition 2011

JCIC ADMIN HOURS



We are aware that some people have had difficulty contacting us. Unfortunately things don't always work out as we hope and we are again looking for someone to man our front desk and keep our administration running smoothly. At present Leone and Wendy are trying to cover as many hours as possible, but we are not always available.

In addition we have had problems with our telephone lines and internet connection.

We hope that these problems will be resolved soon and ask for your patience. In case of an emergency please contact your audiologist or speech therapist on her cellphone.

Contact numbers: 011 4826141 or
011 356-6198 (new number).

BATTERIES



Those of you who purchase your batteries through JCIC will have noticed that the Rayovac batteries now come in a different box. This

is because the new batteries are Mercury Free. Unfortunately what is good for the environment may not be so good for your pocket! Some people are finding that they are getting far shorter battery life so are buying batteries more often. This may be dependent on your type of implant and your MAP so not everyone is having this problem. We do have samples of another make of battery if you are experiencing problems and would like to assess them for us. If they prove to be better we will look at supplying this new make.



We will continue to supply the Power One batteries.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW RECIPIENTS

Congratulations and good luck to our recipients implanted since our last newsletter:



Adults: Peter Hutchison (second ear); Arlene Velloen; Ryan Viljoen; Emiel van den Houte.

Children: Moloko Arlaat; Aisha Hassim (second ear); Kinjal Parshotam (second ear); Alistair Seaton.

A FEW REMINDERS

SACIG

SOUTH AFRICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT GROUP
SUID-AFRIKAANSE KOGLEËRE INPLANTINGSGROEP



The South African Cochlear Implant Group had its Annual General Meeting and Academic meeting in May at Tygerberg. The executive of SACIG rotates between the national teams and Johannesburg will perform this role for the next two years.

All cochlear implant users and their families are welcome to join SACIG as consumer members and attend the academic event and updates from the three cochlear implant companies working in this country. This year our first consumer member from Cape Town attended and reported that he had enjoyed it and found it very informative. Meetings for the next two years will take place in the Johannesburg area. If anyone is interested in joining you can go to the SACIG website www.sacig.org.za

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS



The audiologists are trying to ensure that everyone is reminded about their annual assessments. In the case of people with bilateral implants this will probably be timed according to your second implant. If you do not receive a reminder please contact JCIC to set this up. The reason for the assessment is to ensure that your device is working optimally and that you are aware of new developments and upgrades as well as new assistive devices that are available. It is important to check your device regularly to ensure that repairs are done within warranty periods. The

cochlear implant is an expensive device to maintain and timely repairs help to keep the costs down.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR COCHLEAR IMPLANT



Some of the recipients reading this will be "long-time" cochlear implant users while others may be in their first few months of learning to listen. One-on-one conversations with a familiar communication partner will always be the easiest to follow but at some stage everyone is exposed to a more difficult situation.

In the next few editions we will look at tips for helping you to cope in these situations. In this edition we will cover using the controls on your cochlear implant speech processor.

Use your cochlear implant consistently. Some people do not bother to put on the speech processor until they are going into a situation where they will need to communicate. Use your implant in quiet and easier communication situations so that you can practice paying attention to the important message and ignoring background noise. The sudden input when you are an inconsistent user makes it more difficult for your brain to process the signal. This is frustrating for you and your communication partner. Inconsistent use may lead to increased difficulty in processing the speech signal and a feeling of disappointment in the product.

User Controls:



All speech processors have certain user controls. You will have the

option to control the volume and/or the sensitivity of the device. Your volume control makes the sound louder or softer by affecting the C-Level/MCL of the MAP that you have set with your audiologist.

The sensitivity control will affect how much sound the microphone picks up for processing i.e. the lower the sensitivity setting the less sound the microphone will pick up and you may choose to decrease sensitivity in a noisy environment or increase it if trying to hear something from a distance such as a birdcall. Both the Cochlear and the Med-EL devices have an autosensitivity function. On the Cochlear device this will be loaded as an option on one or more of your programmes, while on the Med-EL device it is always active.

Some people like to switch-on the processor in the morning and seldom make adjustments during the day, while other people change programmes according to the environment that they are in. This can be very useful, but try to select a programme as you go into the environment and then leave the controls alone. You should not keep changing the settings on your processor within one environment. If you keep pressing buttons you will find it difficult to concentrate on what you need to hear!

Discuss the choice and use of your settings and programmes with your audiologist.

Care of your Speech Processor:

- Wipe the speech processor with a damp soft cloth to remove dirt and grime.
- Check that there are no breaks in the transmitting cable. Use the signal check/speech processor test device and ensure that it remains lit up when you move the transmitting cable.
- Use your Dri-and Store or drying kit every night to ensure optimal functioning of the processor. Extra bricks

and capsules can be ordered through JCIC.

- Ensure that your batteries are charged or that you always carry a fresh set of batteries. If you are going into a difficult listening situation it anticipate that your batteries may die it is advisable to put in new or a fully charged battery before entering the situation.

A helpful idea!



Mr Adriaan Poll Jonker who got his implant in March has found a practical way to store all his gadgets so that they are out of the way but easily accessible.

He transformed a wooden bread bin into a "cupboard" for all his CI goodies with holes in the back so that there are no power cords etc in the way.

This way he keeps his charger + dri-kit + accessories neat, safe and together. It is also very practical to use on a daily base.

(He is willing to "build" similar boxes for other patients as well).

MORE TIPS NEXT EDITION!



We are planning to get together and celebrate our 20 years in September which is Hearing Awareness Month. We will keep you updated!

Don't forget to send in your comments, questions and suggestions and stories! Please share them with us at admin@jcic.co.za or 2711482-6141 and we will include them or reply to them in our next edition.