

Southern Sounds

A Professional Communication



Issue 02 / Aug 2011

WELCOME

It is with great excitement that we introduce you to our second edition of Southern Sounds. We have included some of the exciting work presented to you at the SACIG meeting regarding asymmetrical hearing loss and cochlear implantation. These are exciting times and it seems as though there are changes in the horizon around criteria for cochlear implants. With this in mind, we are proud to have launched IROS, our database for BAHA, Cochlear Implants, ABI and DACS. This will allow you to easily capture objective and subjective information about your recipients and report on your findings using the easy format of the database spread sheets. We look forward to large multicentre collaborations to international research and reporting on our own, South African outcomes.

Enjoy!



NEWS

Training with Cochlear™ surgical training specialist

During May 2011 Southern ENT hosted surgical training sessions with Cochlear's surgical training specialist, Egwin van den Heuvel from Belgium, on the Nucleus electrode portfolio. Clinicians reported that the sessions were outstanding! When we asked Egwin what was the one message he wanted to get across he replied: *"The Nucleus electrode portfolio offers a dedicated solution for all cochlear implant (CI) candidates, whether it is complete deafness, ossified cochleae, hearing preservation, malformations or even auditory brainstem implant (ABI)".* And in one sentence, how would he describe the South African cochlear crowd? *"I tend to speak so much that one-liners don't seem to be part of my life, but let me try: During my visit in South Africa (SA) I have met so many dedicated, well-informed, skilled and passionate hearing professionals. In my further career I will refer to them as examples of how CI surgery, fitting, education for the deaf and rehabilitation should be done".* **Well done SA!**

Cochlear™ Implanted Recipient Observational Study (IROS)

Josie Wyss (Cochlear Senior Clinical Specialist Europe) launched IROS in SA in June when she presented the concept to about 20 therapists working actively in CI and Baha clinics. She explained that Cochlear has developed an electronic registry to support clinics in the recording and collation of longitudinally observed patient related benefits in a consistent manner for prospectively treated implant users of cochlear implants, hybrid devices and Baha implants. As the body of data gathered through the registry grows over time, the information can be used to provide medical evidence of risk versus benefit analysis of hearing implant treatments for currently approved patient indications.

Such a registry can provide objective information gathered from large scale unbiased populations, to augment what is known from clinical trials and other research studies about the harms and benefits of tests and therapies.

Access to the Cochlear IROS e-platform is to be made available in several languages globally. The English version will go live soon, with SA being one of the first regions to be involved.

Contact Janet Wiegman of Southern ENT for more information.



Content

[Welcome](#)

[News](#)

[Clinical focus cochlear implants](#)

[Clinical focus Baha](#)

[Product Sounds](#)

[Did you know?](#)

[Inspiration](#)

[Downloadable content](#)

[The sound of Southern ENT](#)

[Editor](#)

The Cochlear™ Symposium at SACIG 2011

During this year's South African Cochlear Implant Group (SACIG) meeting, Josie Wyss, Prof David McAlpine and Stuart Thomas of Cochlear Europe presented exciting new research on asymmetrical hearing loss, single-sided deafness and cochlear implantation. Click here for the full presentation: [AHL – CI and Baha](#)

CLINICAL FOCUS COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Cochleostomy or Round Window?



Using a Round Window approach for the electrode insertion regains popularity among cochlear implant surgeons. Two publications give insight into the continuing discussion. The first is a study concerning the angle of insertion to ensure minimal trauma. [See abstract](#)

The second addresses the overall feasibility of doing a Round Window insertion.

[See abstract](#)

International Symposium on Asymmetric Hearing Loss (AHL)

In February 2011, Cochlear™ Europe hosted a scientifically stimulating international symposium on AHL. Specialists addressed implantable solutions, CI and bone anchored devices (Baha®) for a range of AHL in adult and child populations. A detailed report of the research and clinical experiences presented at the symposium has been published in a supplementary issue of *Audiology & Neurotology*, in collaboration with guest chief scientific editor, Professor Roland Laszig. [See abstract](#)

Remote fitting makes clinic services more accessible

Technological advances and today's widespread access to internet can be used to program remotely the increasing installed base of CI recipients living or moving far away from a CI clinic. [Latest news](#)

CLINICAL FOCUS BAHA®

High body mass index as a risk factor for skin overgrowth with the bone-anchored hearing aid

A study that addresses how to select patients pre-operatively for the longer Baha abutment, based on their body mass index (BMI). The study identified a significant relationship between obesity (BMI > 30 lb/in²) and extensive soft tissue reaction around the implant site. The authors conclude that particularly men with a BMI greater than 30 lb/in², should have an extended abutment placed at the initial surgery. [See abstract](#)



Cochlear™ Baha® 3: because children deserve the best

Don't hesitate to prescribe Cochlear™ Baha® for paediatric patients: the Baha 3 System lays the foundation for safe and individual treatment of even the youngest patients. Baha sends sound directly to the cochlea, without the need for ear moulds that may cause irritation and soreness to small ears. Read more: [Latest news doc](#)



PRODUCT SOUNDS

Cochlear™ Nucleus® 5 System Release 3

Release 3 of the award winning Cochlear™ Nucleus® 5 System offers significant incremental improvements and enhanced backwards compatibility. [Latest news doc](#)

The new Baha® BP110

The new member of the Baha 3 family, the BP110 **POWER** Sound Processor, is now officially available. It offers:

- Extra power in the high frequencies for people with greater hearing loss
- More than 50% improved speech understanding in noise compared to the Baha Intenso
- Fully programmable and automatic
- Moisture resistance
- Meeting the needs of patients with substantial mixed hearing loss (up to 55dB SNHL), patients with a risk of progressive hearing loss and single-sided sensorineural deafness
- Patients with more significant hearing losses can now benefit from the clinically proven and adaptive directional microphone technology in Baha 3

The BP110 will be available in SA as of August 2011. For more information or trials with a Baha BP110, contact Southern ENT: Nicolette van Zyl at 082 819 0205

Read more: [Baha-3-power](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

INSPIRATION

DID YOU KNOW

- According to a study in the United Kingdom (UK) it was estimated that there are at least 7500 adults in the UK who would have had a cochlear implant but had not been referred to a centre for assessment. They found that candidates are often told that they are “too old” to have an implant. *“How many adult candidates do we possibly miss in SA? How should we eliminate the “age myth” and what should we do to ensure those adults who would benefit from an implant are referred for an assessment? Please send us your thoughts to info@southernear.com.”*
- From 38 years old, more men than women become hard of hearing.
- Among people over the age of 80, more women than men are deaf or hard of hearing, not because of their genetic disposition but because they live longer and there are more of them!
- According to a study published in the July 2011 issue of the *Archives of Otolaryngology -- Head & Neck Surgery* tobacco smoke nearly doubles the risk of hearing loss among adolescents. The new study is the first to link secondhand smoke to hearing loss. It found that teenagers exposed to smoke performed worse across every sound frequency tested, especially mid-to-high frequencies important for understanding speech. In addition, teenagers with higher cotinine levels, indicating greater exposure, were more likely to have one-sided or unilateral low-frequency hearing loss. *“In homes where there is active smoking, parents should be made aware of risks to hearing in their children and have their children screened more regularly.”* Read more: [study second hand smoke](#)

Earn CPD points

Professionals can now earn CPD points by listening to excellent online courses on the Cochlear Academy website. Visit www.cochlearacademy.com and select the online courses link. Request a certificate by filling out the evaluation form. Remember to give your full name, HPCSA registration number and email address.

HAPPY LEARNING!

This service is also available on the website of the South African Audiologist Association (SAAA) in the member section under the CPD tab. Visit them at www.audiologysa.co.za



Downloadable content

Like in the previous edition of **Southern Sounds**, we provide links to a selection of interesting white papers and articles.

We are excited to feature a local article by **Dr Martin Gill** in this issue! Baha specialists will find it particularly useful. Read it here: [A non-surgical approach for skin overgrowth around a bone anchored hearing implant](#)

Clinicians are re-invited to submit articles to share valuable knowledge and information with fellow clinicians.

HAPPY READING!

- [Baha low frequency attenuation](#)
- [White Paper CP810 for Nucleus24 users](#)
- [Paediatric CI in the under 5's](#)



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Baha® office support

Due to some requests we compiled a Baha checklist to guide audiologists when they do trials and fittings. [Baha Checklists](#)

We trust you will be able to use these handy documents in your practice!

Editor's note

The next edition of Southern Sounds can be expected by November 2011 so please submit your contributions by 15 October.

Stay warm until the next (Christmas) edition and please submit your articles!

Nicolene Steynberg

