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1. The latest news in Cochlear Implant systems: RONDO

A cochlear implant system comprises of an internal component and an external part called "speech processor". Since the first speech processor launched in the 80s, this device has gone through major improvements in technology and cosmetics. We have witnessed it changing from body worn to a small device used behind the ear. RONDO, the newest cochlear implant speech processor recently launched in Europe by MED-EL, comprises of a single unit that is worn off the ear. The manufacturer states that the benefits of RONDO include:

- 1) Compact and Fully Integrated
- 2) Convenient and Off the Ear
- 3) Proven Performance for Everyday Life.

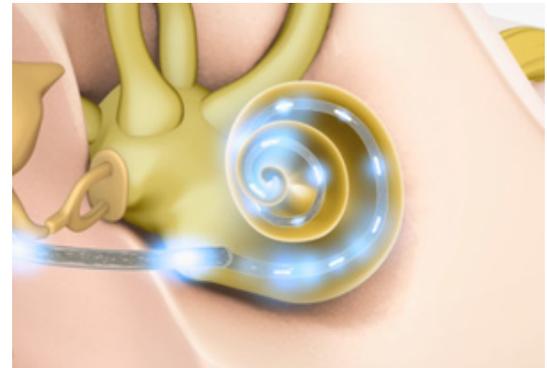
"RONDO integrates the control unit, battery pack and coil into a single unit. Because it is worn off the ear, it is especially comfortable for individuals who regularly wear glasses of any kind".

If you would like to know more about RONDO, do not hesitate to contact us on 9321 7746.



RONDO

Courtesy of Med-EL



Cochlear Implant electrode array Courtesy of Med-EL

2. Negative and positive consequences of hearing loss:

Negative

- * Increased difficulty communicating
- * Reduced interpersonal interactions
- * Avoidance and withdrawal from social situations
- * Increased loneliness, anxiety, irritability, anger and frustration
- * Psychological problems such as depression
- * Decreased self-esteem and self-efficacy
- * Resultant (or increased) relationship problems
- * Increased risk to personal safety
- * Reduced ability to appreciate music
- * Reduced job performance
- * Reduced activities of daily life
- * Poor health related quality of life

Positive

- * Reduced disturbances from unwanted noise
- * Development of communication strategies
- * Affinity to people with hearing impairment and other disabilities
- * Perceived self development
- * Using hearing impairment to self advantage

Cochlear Implant support group meeting:

Date: September 4
Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM
Venue: Park Business Centre
45 Ventnor Avenue WEST PERTH

This meeting is a great opportunity to meet people who are cochlear implant users. You can share experiences, common concerns, coping skills, etc. Contact us on **9321 7746** if you would like to attend. Places are limited.

Manchaiah & Stephens, 2012

3. What's New in The World of Hearing Amplification?

In the last few years, audiology has seen remarkable technological improvements in hearing instrumentation. In support of these technological advances, there is strong evidence that recent improvement in hearing aid features has resulted in enhanced listening performance and greater satisfaction for the hearing aid user.

Modern hearing aids are able to adjust to the way a person listens. One of the first-class features found in some instruments is the unique speech processing and amplification technology that enable users to hear speech signals more naturally, clearly and with more detail.

Here are some of the features available in current technology:

- 1) Automatic zooming in the single voice you want to hear from a noisy crowd.
- 2) Capturing voices in both ears
- 3) Wind management
- 4) Hear the phone in both ears as the caller's voice can automatically be streamed to the opposite ear.
- 5) Comfort in noise feature can reduce uncomfortable background noise such as traffic or the constant hum of a ceiling fan without affecting the ability to understand speech.
- 6) Control of loud sound such as slamming doors or clanking dishes without compromising clarity of speech.
- 7) Whistle control reducing annoyance and allowing less occluding sensation.

In addition, it is good to remember that some hearing aids can connect wirelessly to modern communications devices such as mobile phones, televisions, iPods, etc.

4. Real people... real life: read it for a smile

As hearing health care professional we witness frustration, anxiety, fear and several feelings and reactions of people with hearing impairment.

Some days are easier than others when we try to assist these patients to make an informed decision about their hearing rehabilitation options.

There is nothing more rewarding than to share the happiness of innumerable patients with hearing difficulties to find the solution to facilitate their communication abilities.

This real life story gave our team great joy and we have been given permission to share it with you (see attached).

"Blindness separates us from things but deafness separates us from people." *Helen Keller*

Donate your unused hearing aids to people who cannot afford to buy one.

For several years, Medical Audiology Services has participated in charity projects led by Australian organizations across Asia-Pacific countries. We also have a hearing aid bank that aims to assist Australians who cannot afford hearing aids.

While there are many of us that are fortunate to be able to afford and have access to the latest range of hearing devices with ease, unfortunately there are many countries where the hearing impaired cannot receive even basic hearing health care.

We would like to invite you to kindly donate your old hearing aids that are no longer used to our hearing aid bank. We will ensure that the people who need it the most, will receive this wonderful gift of hearing!

With thanks,

Dayse and Vesna

5. Who we are and what we do:

Medical Audiology Services is a highly reputable private hearing and balance centre with major focus on diagnoses and hearing implantable devices.

For the last 25 years, Medical Audiology Services has worked closely with Ear Nose and Throat specialists to ensure our patients receive the best hearing health care. We use the latest in technology to provide a comprehensive range of hearing and balance diagnoses, hearing re-habilitation and tinnitus treatment. Our cochlear implant centre is strongly respected by our surgeons and patients.

Our audiologists maintain their professional development to the highest standard. We have a research commitment that compliments our clinical work. As a consequence our patients receive the most current management for hearing impairment and related issues.

MAS aims to distribute an informative newsletter tri-annually. If you would like to receive information on a specific topic, email or call us.

If you know anyone who might enjoy our newsletter or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know. **Phone 9321 7746 or email reception@medicalaudiology.com.au**