**Benefit and Satisfaction of Bilateral CI Users and Patients that received CI for SSD-  
an** update after 25 years of bilateral cochlear implantation

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Cochlear implants (CI) are nowadays standard for the hearing rehabilitation of severe to profound deafness in many countries. Today, if bilaterally indicated, bilateral implantation is usually recommended (in accordance with German guidelines) for adults and children. Bilateral implantation enables better speech discrimination in quiet and in noise and restores directional and spatial hearing. Children with bilateral CI are able to undergo thier hearing and speech development based on „hearing“. Within the scope of their individual possibilities, bilaterally implanted children develop faster than children with unilateral CI and attain, a larger vocabulary within a certain time interval, i.e. until the age of 8y. Only bilateral implantation allows true "binaural hearing," with all the benefits that people with normal hearing benefit from, namely: better speech discrimination in quiet and in noise, as well as directional and spatial hearing. Naturally, the developments take time.   
Binaural CI users benefit from the same psychoacoustic effects as normal hearing persons: head shadow effect, squelch effect, and summation and redundancy effects. Sequential CI fitting is not necessarily disadvantageous-both simultaneously and sequentially fitted patients benefit in a similar way. For children, earliest possible fitting and shortest possible interval between the two surgeries seems to positively influence the outcome if bilateral CI are indicated.

Thus, as a logical consequence, from 2005 onwards patients , adults and children, with single sided deafness are treated with cochlear implants.

In addition, preliminary data on quality of life in early implanted bilateral CI users are presented. The data show that both, CI users implanted early at younger age (4 months to 2.5 years), who are now in the age of 14-20 years are, as well as older CI users (36-76 years of age),are very satisfied with their living condition according to a comparison with German norm data. However interestingly, younger implanted CI users are shown to report better subjective hearing quality than the older CI users. Quality of life self assessment of early implanted children compare equal to self assesssment of normal hearing pairs.

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