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CI-provision for deaf children of deaf or hard of hearing parents

Abstract

The cochlear implant (CI) is an internal ear prosthesis, which can bypass the malfunctioning cochlea. After a rehabilitation process and a phase of learning how to hear, People who have been provided with a CI are capable of hearing or hearing again (after losing their hearing).

Cochlear implant provisions – as we understand them today – began in the early 1980s. At first, only people who had lost their hearing were provided with cochlear implants. In the late 1980s also the first infants who were born deaf were provided with cochlear implants. Since then, the CI-provision for deaf and profoundly hearing impaired children has become standard care. In over 90 % of all cases, deaf and profoundly hearing impaired children have hearing parents. They usually decide in favour of a CI-provision for their child. It is different if the parents are also deaf. Unlike in the case of hearing parents, there is no communication barrier as they are proficient in sign language, which enables them to communicate with their child.

The motives of these (deaf) parents for deciding in favour of a CI-provision for their child, their experiences and the effects on the family situation and cohabitating are presented.

CV

Teacher training for Maths and Physics (degree course); followed by the degree course „Special Education for the Hard of Hearing and the Deaf“; followed by professional experience as teacher

1983 to 1986 Doctoral Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU); followed by professional experience as scientific assistant at HU

1992 until retirement (Emerita) Full Professor for Special Education with an in-depth focus on Education for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing at LMU Munich (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

During this time period numerous research projects, inter alia two extensive research programmes (Inclusion of People with Hearing Impairments, as of 1999 with 20 research modules and CI-Provision for Children of Deaf Parents with 7 research modules as of 2000)

2011 to 2013 Vice Dean; 2013 to 2017 Dean of the Faculty for Psychology and Education

2012 Federal Cross of Merit; various research awards, inter alia Hear the World Award in 2010

2002 and 2005 research stays in Japan (funded by JSPS); 2019 research stay funded by BRIDGE

4 DAAD projects with Japan (2006 – 2010, 2012 – 2015, 2017 – 2018, 2020 – 2021)