

What happened?

I had normal hearing though I had vision problems from a young age. In 1993, I had a severe ear infection; though Doctors tried, they could only partially save my right ear. I underwent many treatments, including surgeries and ultimately arrived at this solution which I have been using for the past more than a decade.

What is a Cochlear Implant (CI)?

This technology contains two parts: The Implant & the Processor. A cochlear implant (CI) is a surgically implanted instrument fixed to the skull with its lead reaching the inside of the cochlea. The processor along with the battery is attached externally (behind the ear - detachable every day, to charge the battery); this sends processed signals to the CI (through the skin), which in turn stimulates the cochlea and the cochlea directly sends the signals to the brain; the surgery and the processes are very complex.

After the surgery, intensive training (six to twelve months) is needed to start getting the benefit of this technology.

What is a Vibrant Sound Bridge(VSB)?

This technology also has two parts: The Implant and the Processor with battery.

Similar to CI, this is an implant instrument fixed to the skull, with its lead reaching the base of the cochlea. The processor, attached externally (detachable before sleeping), sends signals to the implant (through the skin), which in turn stimulates the cochlea with 'Sound Vibrations' (instead of electrical signals). This surgery is also complex, but not to the level of CI.

I use the CI along with the VSB and a hearing Aid to manage my hearing and; of course, the spectacle for vision.

Thanks for reading my story.