

NICE time for a change in Cochlear Implant Eligibility Criteria

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The British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG) decided to look at candidacy criteria for cochlear implants in 2013 because members said it was the most important issue facing the field at the time. At that time the BCIG established a candidacy working group to acquire and evaluate evidence to determine what the indications for cochlear implantation should be. Evidence was compiled over the years and many individuals were involved with different activities. The information is stored on the BCIG website as well as being reported back to the BCIG council. The BCIG and the candidacy working group has worked closely with the Action Group for Adult Cochlear Implants together with other stakeholder organisations and a coherent set of evidence was compiled to request that the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) review and update the current cochlear implant guidance.



Debi Vickers at the Summer Meeting

The current NICE guidance came into play in 2009 and is based on data from adults implanted between 1998 and 2000. This group on average had higher hearing thresholds than the current cochlear implant recipients and also there were no data for children. Because of improvements in cochlear implant surgery approaches people with more residual hearing can be implanted and some people are able to use a hearing aid on the other side or in the same ear as the implant.

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DIARY DATES

Technology Day will be held on Saturday 3rd November 2018 at the Adult Auditory Implant Service, Block 19, University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ.
The 2019 Summer Meeting and AGM will be held on Saturday 8th June 2019 at the University of London (Birkbeck Main Building), Torrington Square, London WC1E 7HX.
Watch our website for more up to date information: www.nciua.org.uk/events