

Barcelona, 16th October 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as President of European Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU), a body which represents 33 associations of cochlear implant users from 23 European countries.

With due respect for the decisions made by your government, we want to express our concern about this situation that wastes public resources and reduces the quality of life of Polish citizens who use cochlear implants.

Cochlear implants are a benefit provided by your public healthcare system. They consist of two parts, one internal and one external. According to your legislation the external part, the processor, must be replaced every 5 years.

For various reasons, perhaps related to the COVID19 pandemic and economic issues, there has been a **significant delay, of several years in some cases, to processor renewals in Poland**. Failure to update leads to underperformance of the cochlear implant system, causing educational problems for children and the young, unemployment and underemployment amongst adults, and an increase of diseases such as Alzheimer's, cognitive impairment or isolation in people of the third and fourth age. All of these people should enjoy active lives within their families, social and community environments.

Investing in cochlear implants is the third most profitable healthcare process at the European level, because it turns disabled citizens who need social assistance, into fully productive citizens for society, with higher-skilled jobs, who collaborate better and, ultimately, are able to pay their taxes towards the common good.

The investment in implantation has a high initial cost, and if the performance of the device cannot be maintained over the patients' lifetimes, public resources, which are so important at the moment, are being wasted.

Therefore, we would like to draw your attention to the aforementioned delays in the replacement of the external processors of the users in your country, and with the most profound respect for your decisions, **ask you to study solving this problem and to proceed with updating processors**, as in other European countries. It is a good investment for the Polish citizens affected and also for the entire Polish society, because then you will have citizens in full capacity who are fully integrated into society.

EURO-CIU is at your disposal for any clarification, information or doubt in which we can collaborate.

Best regards
Teresa Amat President

