

Rough Edited Copy

Cochlear Americas
CA-CAN Chapter Meeting
March 12, 2016

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>>SPEAKER: Hi everybody. It is good to see you. I am Deb turner I am a training volunteer that helps set this up every month.

We are so glad to see you.

We have a couple announcements.

One, is usually we have our meetings downstairs but it is up here because they will have a furniture sale next week --

>>: Next month.

>>: Sorry, you are right, next month. Down in that area.

Our next meeting will also be up here. I like this room.

Once the furniture sale is over, we'll be back in the lower level room.

The other thing I want to share with you, I don't know if you saw this but I have several of these.

There is a workshop for people who are newly recipients of cochlear implants.

The workshop is next month, April 4th or 5th and it will explain what it is that comes in your kit. Your big suit case that has all of your things in there.

So, if you are a new recipient, you might want to come.

If you have not received an implant yet it may not make much sense to you.

But if you are a new recipient. Shirley --

>>: Not yet.

>>SPEAKER: You might want to pick up a flyer and they are back on the table.

One is month, Tuesday and the one in the evening and the other is at night.

Any announcements? A birthday? Can we sing.

(Singing happy birthday)

Okay. This group is so large right now, I will ask questions and I want you to raise your hand if you fall into that category.

How many people in here have a hybrid cochlear implant?

How many people in here have a regular cochlear implant?

How many people in here are a candidate or have scheduled surgery for a cochlear implant?

Nice.

How many people here are thinking about a cochlear implant?

Okay. We have a nice variety of people here. Normally we would go around and introduce ourselves and all of that but it would probably take about an hour.

We are not going to do that today because we have a guest speaker.

We have Molly Bertinato from children's hospital who is going to talk about communication and rehabilitation.

This is going to help everybody. Some we are going to go ahead and get started.

When that is over we will have time for questions and answers and if there is still time in the end you can ask questions of those of us volunteers here or who have implants.

We have Laurel back here with the baby. She is the audiologist with Cochlear and comes to the meetings to help support us as well.

This is Molly.

>>SPEAKER: I am excited to be here and we will talk about communication. It is a topic we all desire but have some -- sometimes struggles with it.

Throughout the presentation I am going to talk about different communication techniques or enhancements that make communication easier.

For instance, for our communication partner or the person with hearing loss it is always important to know the topic first.

I am going to talk to you about the topics we have to discuss today.

Communication, being an expert, communication styles, different treatment paths, communication partners, how to get started, and resources for home practice.

You all are the experts because you live with the hearing loss every day. You have a lot to share and teach others.

Talking about communication, I myself have trouble listening in background noise.

I have trouble understanding songs. Fast talkers and people with foreign accents.

So, while I am speaking, I am going to use some of those techniques of slowing down what I am talking about instead of talking louder or exaggerating the words.

I know if I can slow the songs down I would know what they were saying and I could sing along better. Those are some things that our communication partners need to help us out with or we have to teach our communication partners about.

So, with -- what is communication?

It is the back and forth interaction between one another.

What does it mean to you? I imagine a lot because you are all here. It looks like you are here with loved ones too.

We can think about what kind of things we need to help us communicate and what strength we have as communicators.

Just take a minute to think about what communication means to you and what challenges you have in communication.

Does anyone want to share a challenge that they have with communication?

>>: Understanding and loud noises.

>>SPEAKER: Perfect.

>>: One of the problems I have is in driving. I couldn't hear my husband sitting next to me or -- so the communication when I was driving because nothing. I would have to look away and look at him. That really cuts down on what you can do. It is very stressful trying to drive and hear someone else talking or the conversation going on.

>>SPEAKER: Do you want me to repeat anything or -- I have never done this before. Did everyone hear?

>>: I am so tired of saying "what"

>>SPEAKER: Okay. Very good.

>>: That is my problem.

>>SPEAKER: So, let's talk about being the expert. You live it every day. You have experience, that makes you the expert. No one understand it like

you do because they don't live it. Which really makes -- you have to be the teacher to teach others what you are experiencing.

You can't get the knowledge in a book. You have to live it to be that expert.

Sometimes we don't want to be that expert.

Almost three years today my son was diagnosed with type one diabetes. This is a picture of my son and my dad. My dad is saying too Jude, you look funny. He was just in a play.

When he was diagnosed with diabetes the hospital said you will be an expert at this. You will know more than we know. At that time I couldn't believe that to be true because there was so much to learn.

It was true. We became the expert. We had to learn real quick what to do and how to teach others because his life depends on it.

Being prepared is always key. We always have to make sure he has sugar in case he has low blood sugar. It forces me to have an assertive communication style. I have to tell other people, Jude has diabetes, these are signs of low blood sugar and what to do in emergency.

I have to be assertive because Jude is passive about it, he doesn't want people to know. Will have we both have passive personalities but I have to reach out and be assertive in those situations.

This is also my dad. When he was wounded in Vietnam he lost his hearing for two weeks. It recovered somewhat. He has a long standing noise induced hearing loss that continually deteriorates year after year.

We as a family have significant communication challenges.

So, what I was leading into is what -- everyone has different communication styles. They kind of go along with our personalities.

We can be assertive or we can be passive.

So we do have a whole little brochure for everyone that can read more in depth about different communication styles and techniques that match with your personality. They are up here, we can pass those out later.

An assertive personality style or communicator would admit hearing loss, use communication strategies, they might advocate for themselves to get needs met.

Sometimes they can dominate a conversation and don't necessarily listen.

Even though my dad has assertive communication, it is very frustrating for him. He always thinks we are talking about him and makes us repeat everything we are saying.

So, one technique I use is that I condense the information and give him the key details slowly so he can lip read.

I do that because if I repeated the exact conversation that my mom and I were having, one, men are not interested in what women are talking about. Two, it leads to more miss hearing. So I give key details and move on and he is happy with that.

So the passive communicator tends to withdraw from conversations and they might nod and smile when they don't understand something. They let others take responsibility for repairing things that is misheard. The communication breakdown and often needs are not met.

Take a couple minutes and think about the communication style you have and which one you wish to be.

Does anyone want to talk about any times they have had to be assertive and how it worked for them and their family members?

>>: I think, I would have to say before I had my implant I was very passive. Because I didn't know what people were saying. I didn't know what the conversation was about so I tended to not take part in the conversations. But, since I've had the cochlear implant I became much more assertive and participate and not scared to participate in a conversation and because people won't look at me and say, "oh my God, what were you talking about. There has been that shift.

When I run across someone with issues with their hearing, more about fear I think than anything, I am a lot more assertive than I would have ever been before. I know the difference.

>>SPEAKER: You get the confidence by knowing the difference.

>>: The hardest thing for me is not to let my ego stand in the way.

If I want to hear something I better be assertive. Especially when I go to meeting, I tell ahead of time, please look at me when you speak. Speak loudly and halfway through the meeting people mumble again and I have to redo it.

>>SPEAKER: Does that make you happy?

>>: It helps.

>>SPEAKER: Yeah.

>>: Switch back to assertive --

>>SPEAKER: In the slide. Sure.

>>: Can I give one other quick example?

>>SPEAKER: Absolutely.

>>: I went with a client to a court here a couple weeks ago. The client has hearing aids but still has difficulty in those types of settings.

I told the bailiff the client had hearing aids to make sure the judge was aware of that to do what they had to do to make it easier.

Of course, that didn't happen.

So the judge starts into the talking to my client and I am like, I just stood up -- he was in front of me and I was behind him. I did this (Indicating). She said oh, and turned on a microphone. I was like why not have that on in the first place.

He could not have heard anything that was said at the rate she was going. I think especially in situations like that, they need to consider that for people that are out there. They don't know what their situation is.

>>SPEAKER: Definitely.

>>: If it is available why not run it anyway.

>>SPEAKER: Absolutely.

Did you have a question about the slide? Did I go too fast?

Before I talked about things that are similar.

Let's talk about things that are different.

Our treatment paths for every one and every family are different.

So, the stages of change and adaptation are different for the longstanding

hearing loss, where you didn't hear much sound versus a progressive hearing loss that you heard all sounds but slowly lost them.

Or those with sudden hearing loss.

So, which hearing loss would you think would be the most difficult to adjust to a new sound?

>>: Longstanding.

>>SPEAKER: Probably two questions here.

One, if you have sudden hearing loss and lost it adjusting to no sound would be really shocking.

What you were saying is that having that longstanding hearing loss would be harder to recognize what sound is again because it has been so long that your brain has not been listening the same way.

So, I have this on here, it is supposed to be like a map. Your brain is like a map. Really the training that we need after we have a new device is not really for the ears, it is for the brain.

So, when you get a new device it is full of all of this rich sound. The brain is trying to process the sound -- this rapid information in milliseconds.

So the sound is available in the ear, to the ear but the path to the brain is unknown and hard to recognize.

So, I think of the brain like I was saying before, like this map. Auditory training -- we've heard of auditory training, everyone? Okay. Sorry.

It is this trip we are taking from the noisy outside world through the ear to the brain.

If you are hearing sound again for the first time, there is an adjustment in the work ahead.

The more you travel the easier it becomes.

The more you practice listening the easier it becomes.

Think of going on a trip, no matter how you get there, the end goal is the same.

You want to arrive safely at your final destination as a successful communicator.

Always keep your eye on the end goal and always remember where you started.

So, for those of you who heard sound before it is kind of like going on a trip and being in a familiar area. So, you know some of the roads and how they connect. You know names of main highways and that is an easier experience. If you heard before it will be easier to remember sounds again.

So, for those of you that heard sounds before, you got your cochlear implant, can you tell me a few things to describe the adjustment?

>>: I was turned on the first week of January. I've had approximately 2 or 3 months.

The first thing I noticed when the audiologist turned it on, I couldn't make out what was said. The sound was garbled. Because I was focused, I wasn't hearing noise from one side. I have 30% without the hearing aid. I didn't have total loss. But the progress along the way was significant. I think because I had hearing before and still have now.

I am much more improved at this point than what I had hoped actually.

>>SPEAKER: I love to hear those things.

>>: When I got my cochlear implant December of 2014 and 2 weeks later had it activated. The following April of 2015, I was in the living room and watching TV and I heard the sound. It sounded like someone pounding, working on the house or roof. I went outside on my patio and I look up and said where is that noise. I look up to the tree and there was a bird. My whole life I never hear a bird.

Before that I wore two hearing aids and couldn't hear the bird. This I could hear the bird. It was amazing.

Now I know the sound is different between cochlear implant and hearing aids but hearing aid is just pick up the sound. Cochlear implant I can tell the different sound of the water, when you turn the water on.

I work for insurance company and I type for the insurance policy and I have separating the papers and I can hear the paper. That sound drives me nuts. I have a phone clip and I turn the radio or music and listen to music all day long to keep me going.

I am looking forward to having another on the left side probably this November. I can't wait.

>>: When I first got my implant I would read lips. I could read lips pretty good. When someone said television I knew that was what television sounded like with cochlear implant because I could read the lips.

I would practice with computer program that would printout the words. I would learn to recognize the words by the sound. That was helpful to me.

Later on I could go to radio with nothing printed out and work on understanding that.

>>: I was born deaf. Been deaf all my life. I never knew what sounds like until I got cochlear implant 11 years ago.

I never knew the difference between the implant and hearing aids because the implant help me to hear a lot more sounds. Hands making noise, paper, computer, background. If I am in the house I can hear the birds and cars passing by. The hearing aids never.

When I had cochlear implant -- my brain was so confused what was the sound coming from. I have to keep asking people what am I listening. I know the people hear -- their brains just shut it off. I have to focus and try to be on the same page. It took me a long time to learn. Some sound is still new and I am trying not to ask too much. So it is -- I am glad -- 11 years ago. Now I am thinking about getting a second one. I am scared.

>>: I am the same way too. You know, before I had two hearing aids my life was okay. When I got my cochlear implant it was overwhelming. It is amazing. Unbelievable.

>>: I was born with hearing loss. So -- about 90%. 5 or 10%. So, what really concerns me about having the cochlear is I'm going to be so overwhelmed because I have not really heard -- I have heard sounds with two hearing aids but I feel like I am going to be so overwhelmed. My brain is going to have to learn everything, right?

>>SPEAKER: Maybe not everything. Probably -- maybe you don't realize

how much your brain does already know. Some of the new things are -- did you have these same fears?

>>: Yeah.

>>: How much --

>>: I don't know what percent I had severe hearing loss. I was born with normal hearing and about 18 months old there was an accident and I took a bottle of aspirin I thought was candy. Duh. So that is what happened I lost hearing in both ears. My mom was freaking out because she didn't know what to do. You would love my mom, she passed away. She was an amazing mother. She taught me to be in the normal hearing world not within the deaf world. I know the difference between the deaf world and the hearing world. But anyway, my mom found program for me to learn to talk and there was nothing. My mom had no choice. She put me in Saint Rita's for five years. I got out of there and we moved to Michigan and they had programs to learn to talk. No sign language. That was hard for me because I learned sign language as a kid.

In Michigan, it changed my whole life too. You learn to talk and be like -- norm ago -- it is --

>>: That is the thing with me, I was two years old when my mother found out I had hearing loss.

Her brother was visiting from Florida and her brother is a doctor. He just passed away a week ago. He said to my mom, I think she is either deaf or very hard-of-hearing.

My mom and dad were big advocates, they said Holly, society is hearing world not deaf world. They both have master's degrees and they said you are going to go into the hearing world. So I was mainstreamed -- high school.

As difficult as it has been I would not do it any differently.

>>SPEAKER: It is what makes us who we are.

>>: Right.

>>SPEAKER: A lot of times I hear from families, or children, usually teenagers, but they tell me the difference between hearing aid and cochlear implant is they can hear clearer. Not just volume but clearer.

A lot of times what I see are the words that you know already sound better, sound clearer. Those are some of the benefits and being able to hear way more.

Bad sounds and great sounds like the birds.

>>: I always thought I am okay. I made it through life very well. I am okay, but then I am not really. When I hear about what goes on in these meetings and people talking about their cochlears. I can improve on that.

>>: I have a question, my hearing loss is profound. Very gradual loss until the last few months -- last year. It is my comprehension. I can hear but I don't comprehend. Now, no matter how long it is, will a cochlear implant allow me to comprehend what I am hearing?

>>SPEAKER: That is the best chance. If a hearing aid is providing loudness but not clarity. What we know with cochlear implants provides clarity.

>>: Other people go to get cochlear implant with comprehension problem

more than loudness. I would like to know how they were able to adjust to -- right now I am on a lot of committees and I am in a retirement home where I will have to withdrawal from my activities because I can no longer comprehend things. That is what -- that is one thing I am doing.

>>: A lot of people have questions.

>>SPEAKER: I will go over some of that stuff later.

>>: The other thing we can do is we can do that kind of personal question and answer after Molly speaks.

Did you have something to say about what we were talking about.

>>: Yeah. I am heard of hearing, I don't have a cochlear implant. I don't have a middle ear. I have a Baha. They recently took my hearing last year, I am currently adjusting to my Baha.

Things become more loud and clear and I am hearing things -- I never knew AC made noises. That was the first thing I realized made a noise was an AC machine. I was confused as to what it was in the beginning.

The audiologist, my mom laughed at me because I never heard AC before. I never knew the laundry machine made noise. It was the little things that got me excited. I relied on lip reading and always assumed things made noise but never realized how much noise they actually made.

>>SPEAKER: Thank you.

>>: I hate to interrupt your presentation with another question but I have two questions.

You mention you deal with teenagers, my question is do younger people like teenagers rehabilitate faster than the age group we have in this room? If so, what can we do to speed up our rehabilitation?

>>SPEAKER: Everyone adapts differently depending on how much hearing loss you had along the way.

I don't know -- the teenagers that tell me that it is clearer had more hearing than no hearing at all.

So, I don't know that there is -- let me think about this --

For adults have more language and life experience than teenagers. With adults, their brains are filling in the blanks of language and words that are said.

I don't necessarily think that the teenagers are performing faster just that they are the ones that talk or can tell me versus the little kids that can't tell me.

I can see things that little kids can do differently that they couldn't before.

Parents always said they can hear further away. They were amazed. I can call from um stairs and they can hear me. They were more engaged in conversations and felt more confidence. Things like that.

The little ones don't say I like this (Indicating) versus this (Indicating). I don't know if that helps or if I answered the question. We can talk more about that if I didn't.

>>: Just so I understand what is being said, are we saying that if your -- word discrimination is a problem for you more than actual not being able to hear. Is that easier to correct with the implant than if you are actually having a hearing loss?

>>SPEAKER: Let me think of how to explain this.

>>: I have trouble with word discrimination.

>>SPEAKER: We look at hearing loss in two-way volume and then clarity. So, some people just need volume and the signal is clear. Others have distortion and it doesn't matter how loud you make it, it is just going to be loud distortion. Like if you were on the wrong radio station, you wouldn't turn it louder, you would fine tune it.

So, in situations where your hearing aids do not provide enough clarity and you are getting a lot of loud distortion. That is when the implant is more helpful. Am I answering you?

>>: I have one other quick question. I was under the impression with an implant that you couldn't really listen to music anymore.

>>SPEAKER: You can listen to music. Some people say it doesn't sound the same. Others who have lost hearing didn't think it sounded the same but eventually did sound the same.

I do have different programs that I will show you later that help with music training.

>>: That is interesting, okay.

>>SPEAKER: So, back to talking about the rehab process.

So I always kind of think of it as when you are turned on, you have to adapt to new sounds and it is like going on a trip to a new destination. You are going to inspect your surroundings, go low, take wrong turns, get lost, back up, go the wrong direction, it will take you longer to get to your destination. You might be praying. And you might be frustrated. But you finally get there and you celebrate.

We go on our second trip.

You will have less frustration, you will be cautious, you don't take the wrong turn, you don't get lost, you remember the mistakes you made, you recognize your surroundings and you might not get there quite as quick but you make it with less frustration and you celebrate.

So, when the third time, if it is a familiar place, familiar town, you might feel like you are on auto pilot. If it is Africa it may take you longer to get to auto pilot but go ahead and celebrate because you got there.

So, remember -- always remember where you started. When you are feeling discouraged it is always helpful to remember where you began.

So, one thing I want to kind of point out too is the GPS to help you get -- versus using a map.

Like GPS, cochlear implants are also tools. They give you all the information you need but your brain must process that information.

So, when things get tough you have to boss your brain and keep trying. Don't let your brain give up or you will be like me dependent on a calculator.

With getting started, some people already talked about different things we can do to help with our new sound.

All the sounds may run together.

You have to -- you are hearing way more. All of it is coming together but you have to recognize nice the things you are hearing and be able to label what

they are and then you have to ignore it so you can separate it from another sound.

So, it is only after you are able to label you are able to separate it.

We have these environmental skills check list up here. They are really helpful.

It would be great to go around with another family member or whoever will help.

Pointing out all the things that make sounds in your environment. So you can label it, recognize it, remember and move to the next sound.

So I know you were talking about that -- I don't know names. You were referring to asking what is that sound, what is that sound, what is that sound?

It is helpful to be prepared and have that information and to do those sound walks to figure out all the new sounds.

>>: It may take more than one time. Took me seven times asking what is that sound crickets. Sometimes it takes more, you may have to ask, 2, 3, 4 times before you get the aha moment.

>>SPEAKER: Sound is dynamic, it may sound different in a different room or outside. It is okay to keep asking.

This is what I talked about with the environmental sound check list. You have someone help you by locating and labelling the sounds. You can start in a close range. Sit in your room and just listen. You want to listen for sounds that are further away.

You can have someone listen and then point out and tell you all the different sounds that are around.

You always want to start with something familiar. You can have a family member read to you. Like a list of phrases that you are familiar with like, time to eat, I like ice cream, it is my birthday. Just guess what they are saying.

You can even have those phrases written down and they will say it and you can point to figure out which one.

It is good to use familiar topics like colors, numbers 1 to 10, days of the week.

You want to make it easy. You want to first be able to lip read those words.

Lip read the words and then try it without lip reading.

Then you can make it harder by adding some noise. That mean be for quite some time.

You can also listen and follow along when someone reads a book.

A lot of people listen to books on CD and follow along with close captioning, I am sure everyone does and try without.

You can read along with song lyrics.

Play games with the family, those are really easy, familiar games. Like simple ones like go fish. So you know the subject matter and know what is expected.

Then, I am sorry, someone back here told me about printing -- listening to something on a computer and then printing it out.

>>: You can listen to angel sounds.

>>SPEAKER: I have that. That may have been what he was talking about. Here are some resources from home.

Do we copy this presentation and make it available?

>>: If you want to send PDF we can send it out. We can e-mail to everyone.

>>SPEAKER: Maybe if I get the resources for you guys to have.

>>: That would be great.

>>SPEAKER: This is a site I like a lot and use with families and older children.

It comes through cochlear and they have manuals that you can download and look through.

I don't think I can click on the website to get to it but this is a picture of what the manual looks like. It helps you walk through the steps.

Just tell me if I am going too fast.

>>: Back

>>: Just so you are all aware, this site is different from angel sounds. We will send out the link to everyone in the e-mail.

>>SPEAKER: Does everyone get the e-mail?

>>: Do you have this available in print? Do you have to do the whole e-mail address has to be put in to get that pamphlet?

>>SPEAKER: Yes, the whole email has to go into open up, yes.

>>: As long as you sign in with your e-mail you will get the e-mail.

>>SPEAKER: So this information will be sent to you, you don't have to write all of this.

Another site that has communication skills, telephone and music.

This site is the music and the phone.

If anyone wants to take a picture they can.

We will make sure everyone gets it.

These are other apps like the angel sound you can get on iPhone or iPad.

>>: We will include the PowerPoint with the transcriptions. You will get the PowerPoint that she has with the transcriptions of what this meeting is about through e-mail. If we have your e-mail address.

If you didn't put it on here and we don't have it, we won't be able to send it.

>>SPEAKER: So, I have another nice link in here too. If you need to explain hearing loss to others this is a really nice website.

Here is another video that is incredible that allows you to show others what it is like to have hearing loss.

>>: Will that e-mail come up -- I don't hear anyone saying what it is. When it comes to us will it be on there?

>>: Yes, both things.

>>SPEAKER: Sorry, I should have made a sheet and printed it all out for you guys.

So, we are finished.

>>: Any specific questions for Molly that someone has?

>>: With the cochlear implant will my speech improve?

>>SPEAKER: Part of speech you know is not hearing the sounds. So, you will hear them differently which you keep listening, talk out loud a lot to yourself. Most people do see changes in improvements and speech. Make sense?

>>: Yes. One more question. When I met with doctor, director over at UC. She was very concerned because of my age I guess, about me training my

brain on the implant because I was born 90% loss.

That really bothers me.

>>SPEAKER: That's okay.

>>: Do you know why she would have meant that? I kind of know what she meant? Meaning it would be harder for me.

>>SPEAKER: What I think is very positive is that you speak. You have speech. That is a big thing for getting a cochlear implant and making sense of it. Your brain knows what speech sounds like. Does that make sense?

>>: Not really. If you have 90% loss and even though I did wear hearing aids they will not work as well. I feel very overwhelmed with her telling me that it was going to be very difficult for me. That I canceled my appointments with Dr. Samy.

>>SPEAKER: So, does she think it would be worse or just hard?

>>: The longer I go without sound is what she is probably saying, the harder it will be for me to train or -- once I get --

>>: There is no doubt it will be a challenge. It is up to you, if you are up for at a challenge it is important to do what you feel is right in your heart.

>>: I feel it is right but it is scaring the hell out of me that I canceled my CT scan.

>>: You have to take it at your own pace and take information and process it. You can always reschedule it. I think it would be good to talk with a volunteer that is here today or a recipient. Fear is really normal.

>>: I am sure it is, I feel like it is double for me. Most people here already heard sound and gradually lost it or whatever. With exception of a couple of us.

>>: I think it is important that you understand that and maybe talking with someone else that had a long duration of deafness and got a cochlear implant would be helpful for you.

>>: Another thing Holly, I have four friends who have cochlear implants. I talk to them and I want to hear what their experience was. They talk about it so I could know what to expect when I got cochlear implant. I got them and said whoa, it is different. I remember what my friends told me about having a cochlear implant for a long time. It helped.

>>: I am going to stop you.

>>: Fine, stop me, I talk too much.

>>: The reason I stopped her is I would like to have breakout sessions so a small group of people can talk to people that had cochlear implants and had different kinds of hearing loss and they can talk to you individually about that. So we are going to split up and use this room as well as the room back in this way.

I want these people who maybe I have not even talk to yet. Stand up, because I will send a group of people to you.

Jane would you be willing to talk to some people?

Mary Joe. Brian, Laurel and Sister June.

I will tell you what they are going to talk about.

Someone else, Janice.

Thank you.

Correct me if I'm wrong, I am Deb, I am going to talk about hybrid implants. If you don't know anything about it it is probably because you are not a candidate for it. It is where someone lost the high frequencies but not the low frequencies so I have a combination hearing aid, cochlear implant.

I am going to talk to those people.

Janice is going to talk to people that have progressive hearing loss.

Sister June back there had progressive hearing loss but had hearing difficulty since they was one, for a very long time and had her cochlear implants for a very long time. She is back there.

So figure out who you are going to go to.

Brain is going to talk to people who had cochlear implants for a long time but he also had progressive hearing loss.

Laurel and Molly will talk to us about people that have communication, audiology, mapping, those kinds of concerns. Things about the communication aspect.

Jane, progressive hearing loss. New cochlear implants. The one is pretty new and another that is pretty old. She has had one for a while and got a new one.

Anyone had a sudden hearing loss?

>>: I have both.

>>: Janice can talk about sudden hearing loss.

Karen has been deaf her whole life but she may want to talk to Holly about what cochlear has done for her. Someone who has been deaf their whole life Karen can talk to.

MaryJo has a hybrid on one side and cochlear in the other.

I would like you to figure out who you want to talk to maybe and go with that person and that person, find a place in this room or the other room to talk with people. Before we do that, does anyone have anything else they want to announce or say for the general good of the whole group.

>>: Remind them about next Monday.

>>: Dr. Samy will be here next month.

>>: I don't know if I am a candidate for the hybrid or --

>>: We will talk to you about it.

>>: Who do I talk to about that?

>>: I will talk to you about that.

>>: The resources you gave us, is that with the resources from last month that you told us, after like my dad had the implant, the serial number and everything will be in there and then we can log onto use them?

>>: This will not be available directly through that but we will send out e-mail with links. It is a global link. Some will be available.

>>: Any other questions?

>>: Where is the progressive meeting?

>>: You can do mine, there are 2 or 3 of us with progressive.

Anyone else have any questions or not know what to do?

>>: Anyone I can talk to about going on second implant. I want to talk to

someone with a second one.

>>: I just got a second one after 20 years for the first one.

>>: Okay. I think it makes sense to link people up like that.

First of all, before everyone disappears, I want to thank Molly for doing the presentation. I would like to thank this Molly over here who does our transcription.

There is stuff over there, this kind of pangs and stuff, if you are interested in these things. The stuff in April coming up for people that are new.

We will send this presentation that Molly did as well as the whole transcription will be sent to you if we have your e-mail address.

It is a lot to read but it is very beneficial.

Alright, is everyone ready? Thank you so much for coming.