



Media Advisory

Provincial Health Services Authority

BC Children's hospital marks 25 years of cochlear implants to improve hearing

VANCOUVER – BC Children's Hospital is celebrating 25 years of cochlear implantation in children who have severe hearing loss.

Event Date: Saturday June 15, 2013

Time: 1:30-4:00 pm

Location: Chieng Family Atrium at the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI): located on the BC Children's and BC Women's site.

Directions: Enter the site from Oak Street (south of West 28th Avenue) and take first left. The main entrance to CFRI (#18) is located on the left. A map is available at:

www.cfri.ca/aboutus/contactus.asp

Contact: Corinne Crichlow, Communications Officer, Provincial Health Services Authority
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Quick Facts

- More than 300 BC children have received cochlear implants and ongoing care through the Cochlear Implant Program.
- BC Children's performs approximately 30 implants per year.
- A cochlear implant consists of two parts: an internal device that is surgically implanted and an external sound processor worn behind the ear that picks up sound.
- The sound processor delivers the signal to the implant to stimulate the nerves in the cochlea, which the brain perceives as sound.
- Early cochlear implants were the size of an older Sony Walkman, which children would wear as "backpacks". Today, sound processors are the size of a behind-the-ear hearing aid.
- New cochlear implant technology also allows for water resistant processors so the children can swim and still hear, they do a better job at encoding music, and a better job at getting rid of background noise making it easier to hear in noisy environments.
- The option of cochlear implants has enhanced the quality of life for many children throughout the province by providing access to hearing and spoken language.
- Hearing loss has an impact on the learning and development of children.
- Cochlear implants are one of several options for families with children who have severe to profound hearing loss who do not receive appropriate benefit from hearing aids.

- Hearing loss in children may cause delays in speech and language development, and the goal of cochlear implantation is to provide access to all of the speech sounds to aid in the acquisition of spoken language.

For more information about Cochlear Implant Services, visit www.bcchildrens.ca under Services button.

BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. BC Children's is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Child & Family Research Institute.

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, visit www.phsa.ca.