

Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals Hosts Its First *Cochlear Implant Educational Programme (CIEP)*

New Delhi May 22: Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals successfully hosted its first Cochlear Implant Educational Programme (CIEP) under the guidance of **Dr Ameet Kishore**, Senior Consultant, Otolaryngology on Sunday (May 21, 2006) at the hospital auditorium.

A substantial number of children and adults with profound hearing loss attended the free screening-cum-consultation camp. **Organised by Pika Medical Ltd**, the authorized distributors for Cochlear Ltd. Australia in India, this camp helped people with severe to profound hearing loss to assess their needs for a cochlear implant. Presentations on the function of cochlear implants, the types of hearing tests required and the surgical aspects were followed by one-to-one counseling, and ten people were screened and identified to be potential candidates for a Cochlear Implant.

Dr Ameet Kishore had initiated the cochlear implant programme at Apollo Hospitals a few weeks ago. A two-and-a-half year-old boy was the first child to be implanted at the hospital and to receive the Nucleus Freedom cochlear implant. Dr Ameet Kishore personally conducted the free screening camp and provided one-to-one counseling for people who attended the camp. A trained audiologist was also present on the occasion to interact with the parents and other potential cochlear implantees.

The objective of the workshop was to spread awareness on a definite solution to the hearing impaired and the selection criteria of the cochlear implantees. Cochlear implants have been successfully used around the world to help children and adults with severe to profound hearing loss. The implants are especially useful for children since they have been able to join the mainstream life after receiving the implant. They can go to a school, be a musician, play any sport and lead a life which is as normal as any other. One of the key factors impacting the success of a cochlear implant is the early identification of hearing loss and assessment for implant suitability.

According to **Dr. Ameet Kishore**, “Cochlear implant systems are designed to last a lifetime. The benefit obtained from these implants is maximised when inserted soon after diagnosis itself, which basically confirms that the earlier a child is implanted, the better their listening and talking skills will be”.

More than 68,000 people in over 120 countries have benefited from a Nucleus cochlear implant. Although still relatively new to India, more than 870 individuals through various centres have received cochlear implants with excellent outcome.

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