

Bid to Spread Awareness About Cochlear Implant

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NEW DELHI: Indraprastha Apollo Hospital will host its first Cochlear Implant Educational Programme here on Sunday wherein a large number of children and adults with profound hearing loss would be provided access to a free screening-cum-consultation camp.

To be held under the guidance of Senior Otolaryngology Consultant Ameet Kishore, the camp will help people with severe to profound hearing loss to assess their needs for a cochlear implant.

Dr. Kishore had earlier initiated the cochlear implant programme at Apollo Hospital. A two-and-a-half-year-old boy was the first child to be implanted at the hospital and receive the Nucleus Freedom cochlear implant. Dr Kishore will be personally conducting the free screening camp and providing one-to-one counselling to people attending the camp. A trained audiologist will also be present to interact with the parents and other potential cochlear recipients.

The objective of the workshop is to spread awareness about a definite solution to the hearing impaired and the selection criteria of the cochlear implant candidates. 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 are able to join mainstream life after receiving the implant. They can go to school, play any sport and even become a musician, leading a normal life.

One of the key factors impacting the success of a cochlear implant is early identification of hearing loss and assessment for implant suitability. According to Dr. 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 it is still relatively new to India, more than 870 individuals through various centres have received cochlear implants here with excellent outcome.