

BRIEF REPORT

200 COCHLEAR IMPLANTS - A MILESTONES

An event was held at Army Medical College on the 10th of June, commemorating the 200th successful cochlear implant at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalpindi. The Surgeon General, Lt. Gen Nigar Johar HI (M), DG MS (IS) was the chief guest of the occasion. The event was attended by high ranking officers of Army Medical Corps, faculty members and cadets of Army Medical College, as well as by some recipients of cochlear implants with their families.

After the recitation of Holy Quran and national anthem, Maj Gen Sayed Nusrat Raza HI (M), Principal Army Medical College presented the initial remarks on the remarkable achievement of the Cochlear Implant Team at ENT department, CMH Rawalpindi and stressed on the continuous development of this program.

Furthermore, a documentary showcasing the recipient of the first cochlear implant in Pakistan Army was presented by Cadet Mahrukh of 3rd year MBBS. The video was a tale of a battle not on the battlefield but against being handicapped for life. Indeed, CMH and Pakistan Army gave that man a second chance at life with melodies and laughter.

After that Brig Shoaib Ahmed, Head of the ENT department at CMH Rawalpindi presented a statistical analysis of cochlear implants over the years at CMH Rawalpindi. It show-cased the evolution of the program ever since its start in 2017 and how it expanded on to become a nation wide program.

To demonstrate the impact of this procedure and it's consequent follow-up on the recipients, children with pre-lingual deafness who had received cochlear implants 3, 6, 12, 18, and 24 months ago were presented on stage. Those who received cochlear implants 3 months ago were able to perform at sound level; at 6 months, they could form words; after 12 months they

could speak at the level of phrases; 18 months after the procedure, they could form sentences, and at 24 months they performed at the level of spontaneous speech.

The Surgeon General also had a heartwarming interactive session with children who had received cochlear implants and were undergoing speech therapy. The Surgeon General also activated the 200th successful cochlear implant at the occasion giving a message to all those devoid of sound, that there is an institution out there fighting for their cause.

Souvenirs were presented to the Cochlear Implant Team and the participants by the chief guest Lt Gen Nigar Johar commending them for tireless efforts in the face of undying unrealistic odds.

In her concluding remarks, the Surgeon General applauded the efforts of the Cochlear Implant Team and assured of the continuous support for the further development of this program. She announced a package of Rs. 50,000/- to the recipients of cochlear implants and Rs. 1 million for the Cochlear Implant Program.

CMH HEAR program has been a ray of light for those devoid of melodies and the voice of loved ones. Its initiative has brought back many individuals from the world of silence. We hope and pray that this initiative continues to be a hope for all those devoid of the sense of hearing.

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