

Table 5.1. Professionals Involved in Cochlear Implantation in South Africa (n=118)*

Professionals	Total, <i>n</i> (%)
Audiologists	44 (37.29)
Otorhinolaryngologists	29 (24.58)
Rehabilitationists (such as speech-language therapists, auditory-verbal therapists)	26 (22.03)
Other (such as geneticists, psychologists, radiologists, bio-engineers, social workers)	19 (16.10)

**Data available for 10/12 CI programmes.*

Table 5.2. National Cochlear Implantation Statistics in South Africa*

2019	Paediatric, n (%)	Adult, n (%)
Patients referred for cochlear implantation (n=318)	101 (31.76)	217 (68.24)
CI recipients for the year 2019 (n=167)†	61 (36.53)	106 (63.47)
Total cochlear implantations (devices) for 2019 (n=216)†	93 (43.06)	123 (56.94)
Historical data (until end of 2019)		
Total CI recipients in SA (n=2 286)†	1 239 (54.20)	1 047 (45.80)
Total cochlear implantations (devices) in SA	2 877†	

CI = cochlear implant; SA = South Africa.

*Data available for 10/12 CI programmes.

†The differences in these numbers are due to some patients receiving bilateral implantations.

Table 5.3. Reasons for Non-Selection of CI Candidates (n=125)*†

Reason	n (%)
Patient choice (candidates/parents opted not to proceed with implantation despite meeting selection criteria)	36 (28.8)
Socioeconomic factors (for example, financial implications hindering cochlear implantation, geographical constraints and compliance and commitment towards the CI process)	30 (24)
Outside audiological criteria (hearing loss did not meet the audiological criteria for cochlear implantation)	22 (17.6)
Patient age (implanting older paediatric candidates (>3.5 years) with congenital hearing loss may lead to poorer outcomes)	19 (15.2)
Other	18 (14.4)

CI = cochlear implant.

*Data available for 10/12 CI programmes.

†318 patients were referred for cochlear implantation, 167 patients received implants and 125 patients were not selected for implantation. It is possible that the 26 remaining patients still needed to undergo cochlear implantation in 2020.

Table 5.4. Sources of Funding for Cochlear Implantation (n=216)*

Source of funding	Total, <i>n</i> (%)	Proportion	Proportion
		children, <i>n</i> (%)	adults, <i>n</i> (%)
Medical aid and other sources (private funding, donations, charity, etc.)	96 (44.44)	40 (41.67)	56 (58.33)
Medical aid only	65 (30.09)	21 (32.31)	44(67.69)
Government (public healthcare sector) funding	43 (19.91)	23 (53.49)	20 (46.51)
Charity	5 (2.31)	5 (100)	0
Private funding (no medical aid)	4 (1.85)	3 (75)	1 (25)
Donated by a CI company	3 (1.39)	1 (33.33)	2 (66.67)
Total	216	93	123

CI = cochlear implant.

**Data available for 10/12 CI programmes.*