News and research in bone conduction hearing – craniofacial osseointegration

Cochlear presented its new generation of Baha® technology at the 4th International Symposium on Bone Conduction Hearing – Craniofacial Osseointegration in Newcastle, UK. These innovations included the Baha 4 Connect System with the DermaLock™ Abutment (BA400), the new transcutaneous Baha 4 Attract System and the new Baha 4 Sound Processor with 2.4 GHz wireless technology.

The conference, held every two years, brings together hundreds of surgeons and audiologists from all over the world to discuss the latest scientific research and technology. This year’s meeting was successfully organised by Mr Ian Johnson and Tom Davison from the Freeman Hospital and was the biggest conference of its kind so far, both in terms of delegate numbers and scientific presentations.

The new Baha 4 Sound Processor: smarter hearing and wireless freedom

The introduction of the next generation of Baha sound processor featuring the Ardium™ platform and wireless technology created great interest. The new wireless products improve hearing in the most challenging situations without the need for cords or extra neck-worn devices. According to Dr Mark Flynn from Cochlear, product testing shows a clear patient preference for the new technology as well as an improvement in the signal to noise ratio. The Baha 4 Sound Processor is not CE marked or approved by the FDA.

Soft tissue preservation with DermaLock technology in the Baha 4 Connect System

Cochlear’s DermaLock Abutment, now implanted in more than 1,000 patients was extensively discussed in sessions and poster presentations.

Dr Pete Weber, Cochlear Chief Medical Officer, presented the results of the first 300 patients from over 80 hospitals implanted with the DermaLock Abutment. The post market surveillance showed excellent cosmetic results in all patients, favourable soft tissue outcomes and significantly shorter surgical time. Professor Robert Stokroos, Maastricht, The Netherlands, showed how soft tissue can be preserved with this new technology enabling a faster, simpler and more cost-effective procedure than with previous systems. Dr Jack Wazen, Florida, USA, shared the results of the extended US controlled study of the DermaLock abutment including over 100 patients from multiple sites across the US.

The Baha 4 Attract System in clinical investigation

Dr Henrik Smeds from Melbourne, Australia, presented early results from the on-going clinical investigation of the Baha Attract System, a new cosmically appealing transcutaneous bone conduction solution. This new technology combines many of the proven benefits of the Baha system without the need for a skin
penetrating abutment. Early results indicate significant patient benefits in terms of hearing performance and wearing comfort. This new magnetic system is not CE marked or approved by the FDA.

Summary

Cochlear was proud to be the platinum sponsor of OSSEO 2013 and to have had the opportunity to showcase new possibilities for bone conduction patients. In addition to presenting new innovations and research, Cochlear also celebrated 100,000 Baha users at the conference. For more than 35 years, Cochlear has provided proven and well-tested hearing solutions, and will continue to give people of all ages throughout the world access to better hearing and the opportunity to live a more fulfilled life.

June 11, 2013
Gothenburg, Sweden
Dr Henrik Smeds from Melbourne, Australia, presented early results from the on-going clinical investigation of the Baha 4 Attract System.
Press release

Cochlear Limited is the global market leader in implantable hearing solutions and is a top 100 global medical device company. Our global product range includes the world’s leading cochlear implant systems and the most advanced bone conduction hearing solutions. Cochlear BAS is a division of Cochlear Ltd and the world leader in bone conduction hearing solutions. Situated in Mölnlycke, outside Gothenburg, Sweden, the head office employs approximately 200 people to develop, manufacture and support Baha® and Vistafix® products.

Professor Robert Stokroos, Maastricht, The Netherlands, showed how soft tissue can be preserved with DermaLock technology enabling a faster, simpler and more cost-effective procedure than with previous systems.
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Cochlear’s tech suite was well visited during the event, with delegates very interested in hearing more about the latest technology and getting hands-on experience with the new products.
Dr Pete Weber, Cochlear Chief Medical Officer, presented the results of the first 300 patients implanted with the Baha DermaLock Abutment (BA400).
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Dr Mark Flynn, from Cochlear, spoke about the results of product testing of the new Baha 4 Sound Processor with true wireless technology that showed improvement in the signal to noise ratio.
Press release

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On Wednesday June 5, prior to the Osseo conference, Cochlear celebrated 35 years of Baha practice and 100,000 Baha users. Guest of honours at this event: Mr Michael Rothera, Dr Jack Wazen, Professor Bo Håkansson, Dr Doug Backous, Professor Ad Snik and Dr Anders Tjellström.