Radiologists weigh in on the importance of **magnet removal** for cochlear implant recipients needing an MRI.

Radiologists are medical doctors who specialize in diagnosing diseases and injuries using a range of imaging techniques one of which is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

**What is an MRI?**

An MRI is a diagnostic tool to obtain images of organs and tissues using a very powerful magnetic field measured in tesla (T). MRIs can range in strength from 0.2 T to 7.0 T, with 1.5 T being the most common. 9 out of 10 radiologists believe that MRIs will get even stronger in the future.¹

**Safety concerns for medical implants and MRI.**

Due to the powerful magnetic field, medical implants with metallic or ferromagnetic components such as pacemakers, defibrillators, catheters, pumps and cochlear implants can create problems for MRIs. The risks include the potential for device repositioning that may cause injury or pain and also obscure the image.²³ 85% of radiology professionals agree they have an alternate diagnostic tool for patients who cannot undergo an MRI due to having a device or implant with a magnet.¹

**Cochlear implants and MRI compatibility.**

A cochlear implant is a medical treatment for moderate to profound hearing loss. Inside each cochlear implant is a magnet. To ensure MRI compatibility for cochlear implant recipients the Cochlear™ Nucleus® Implant System contains a removable magnet. Cochlear was the first to introduce this key safety feature nearly two decades ago. The magnet is easy to remove and replace if needed. In the rare case that a recipient needs serial MRIs, a no-magnet option is available. The importance of this design feature is reinforced by radiologists.

**Cochlear Nucleus implants are designed for safe MRIs.**

For over 30 years, Cochlear has helped more than 400,000 people around the world to hear better than they could even with the most advanced hearing aids. For nearly two decades, the Cochlear Nucleus System has included a removable magnet to ensure recipient safety and comfort in the rare case an MRI is needed and an alternative imaging option is not available. Additionally, the most recent advances in the Cochlear Nucleus 6 Sound Processor provide unprecedented hearing even in the most challenging listening environments, like noisy restaurants, and the ability to wirelessly connect to mobile phones, televisions and music players.⁴

**References:**

3. www.Radiologyinfo.org