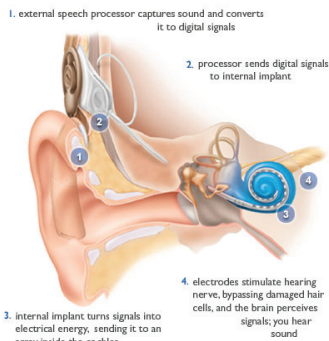


# Did you know?

*The latest from the field of otolaryngology*

## Cochlear Implantation in the Elderly

For the nearly 10% of individuals with hearing loss who unfortunately experience no benefit from hearing aids, there may be hope. Cochlear implantation by-passes the age-related, damaged hair cells and stimulates the cochlear nerve directly. In addition to the myriad of studies showing benefit in other age groups, many studies focusing on the geriatric population have shown significant benefit with restoration of useable hearing and reengagement with others. As expected, quality of life studies reveal substantial gains following implantation in relieving the social isolation, depression, and loneliness that result from deafness. Last and germane to the current financial climate, cost-effectiveness studies have also shown favorable outcomes.



*Picture courtesy of Cochlear, Ltd.*

## Evolving Treatment of Sudden Hearing Loss

Inflammation appears to be central to the damage done and have led to systemic steroids becoming the mainstay of treatment. However, results vary. Relatively recent studies have shown that steroids applied directly in the middle ear diffuse into the inner ear and reach significantly higher concentrations. Clinical studies suggest that intratympanic application alone or in combination with systemic steroids may give superior results. The optimal treatment window is within the first few days, but benefit has been shown up to 6 weeks after the insult.



*Dr. Chandler Marietta practices in all realms of ENT and has special interests in ear surgery including cochlear implantation, cosmetic and reconstructive nasal surgery, pediatric otolaryngology, and facial plastics.*

Call us at (612) 339-2836 or toll-free at (866) 316-0769 to schedule an appointment with a specialist at one of our convenient locations.



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