

## **IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION TO HiRes90K® COCHLEAR IMPLANT USERS**

June 9, 2006

Dear Cochlear Implant User or Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about the possibility of a problem in your HiRes90K® cochlear implant. Although the majority of Advanced Bionics cochlear implants function well, we recently became aware that some of our implants stopped working prematurely due to a problem with a component called the feedthru. The feedthru is the part that conducts electrical signals from the hermetically (waterproof) sealed part of the implant to the electrode. We believe that the premature failures we have seen thus far have been associated with the feedthrus purchased from one particular supplier. Accordingly, all of the unimplanted HiRes90K® implants containing feedthrus from this supplier were recalled on March 8, 2006. And, in keeping with our commitment to our patients, we now are notifying those patients already implanted with the HiRes90K® containing a feedthru from this supplier. Our records indicate that you are one of those patients.

**What does this information mean for you?** Your implant could stop working prematurely. In this event, it would become necessary to get a new cochlear implant.

**What are the signs and symptoms that a HiRes90K® might be starting to fail?** You or your child may experience:

- a sudden sensation of discomfort or pain
- a sudden loud noise or popping sound
- an intermittent functioning
- a complete loss of sound
- in infants or children, an unwillingness to wear the external headpiece; crying or fussiness when the sound processor is turned on; apparent loss of audiological benefit from the device; lack of expected progress or diminished progress in achieving speech/language milestones

*NOTE: These symptoms may be related to other issues not necessarily associated with implant failure.*

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION - HiRes90K®  
JUNE 9, 2006  
PAGE 2 OF 2

**What should I do if I or my child has any of these signs or symptoms?**

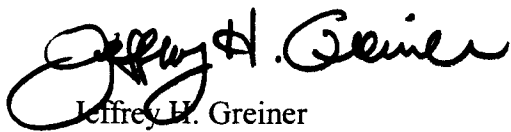
1. Try the backup cable, then the headpiece (if separate), and then the sound processor.
2. If signs or symptoms persist, remove the headpiece and contact your hearing care provider. Your cochlear implant team is the best resource should you have any concerns or symptoms.

**Do I need to do anything if I do not have these signs or symptoms? No.**

In the event an implant should stop working, Advanced Bionics offers a comprehensive 10-year warranty that covers the implant.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call your clinic or call Advanced Bionics at 1-877-454-5038 between the hours of 5AM and 5PM Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. We at Advanced Bionics are committed to providing you with support, information, and innovation to help improve hearing outcomes today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey H. Greiner  
President and Co-Chief Executive Officer



Jim R. Miller  
President, Auditory Division