



Corporate Offices

Auditory Division

Pain Management Division

Pelvic Health Management Division

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION TO CLARION® CII COCHLEAR IMPLANT USERS

September 29, 2004

Dear Cochlear Implant User or Parents:

We are writing with updated information about the implanted part of your cochlear implant system, called CLARION® CII. We trust that your implant continues to provide benefits and improved quality of life. You may have already heard news about your implant, and we hope this will help your understanding.

After 3 years, 97.7% of the CLARION® CII are still in use. Advanced Bionics continues to seek the highest possible reliability for its implantable medical products. To this end, we have recently conducted an extensive review of the CLARION® CII and wish to share the results.

Some of these implants have been removed for medical reasons (such as infection), but most simply stopped working. Our investigation into the causes of these failures indicates that the most common cause was moisture in the device that led to the device shutting down.

What does this information mean for you? Your implant could stop working prematurely, if it is adversely affected by this moisture. In this event, it would become necessary to get a new cochlear implant.

What are the signs and symptoms that a CLARION® CII 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 children, an unwillingness to wear the external headpiece

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

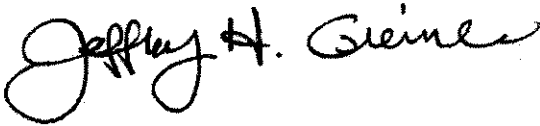
1. Try the backup cable, then the headpiece (if separate), and then the sound processor.
2. If signs or symptoms persist, remove the headpiece and contact your hearing care provider. Your clinic has a simple and quick way to test whether your CLARION® CII implant is fully functional.

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

How can I get further information? If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Advanced Bionics at 1-877-454-5038 between the hours of 5 AM and 5 PM Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

Advanced Bionics appreciates the trust you have put in our product. We pledge to you our continued energies to improve the reliability of our medical technology.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey H. Greiner
President and Co-Chief Executive Officer