

HEARING RESTORATION WITH THE MULTICHANNEL AUDITORY BRAINSTEM IMPLANT

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Restoration of useful hearing is now possible in patients with bilateral acoustic neuromas by direct electrical stimulation of the cochlear nucleus. Our first experience with the Multichannel Auditory Brainstem Implant is reported. A forty four year old female with bilateral acoustic neuromas and a strong family history of Neurofibromatosis Type II presented with profound bilateral hearing impairment. Translabyrinthine removal of the right tumour was performed with placement of the Nucleus eight electrode Auditory Brainstem Implant. Intraoperative electrically evoked auditory brainstem response monitoring successfully confirmed placement over the cochlear nucleus. Postoperatively, auditory responses are obtained on stimulation of all electrodes with minimal non-auditory sensations. The patient receives useful auditory sensations using the "SPEAK" speech processing strategy. The role of the Auditory Brainstem Implant is discussed together with surgical issues, postoperative fitting strategies and results in this case.



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