

Cochlear implants: Not just for kids (Broadcast)

INTRO:

WHEN PEOPLE THINK ABOUT TREATING HEARING LOSS... HEARING AIDS ARE OFTEN THE FIRST SOLUTION THAT COMES TO MIND. WHILE HEARING AIDS CAN BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FOR MANY PEOPLE – THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE.

TAKE VO

ACCORDING TO DR. EMILY COOPER... A CLINICAL AUDIOLOGIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE ILLINOIS NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE... THE BEST TREATMENT DEPENDS ON THE SEVERITY AND TYPE OF HEARING LOSS. AN AUDIOGRAM... OR HEARING TEST... CAN HELP AUDIOLOGISTS DETERMINE THE MOST APPROPRIATE OPTION FOR EACH PATIENT.

AS HEARING LOSS PROGRESSES... HEARING AIDS MAY NO LONGER PROVIDE ENOUGH BENEFIT... ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING SPEECH. WHEN HEARING LOSS BECOMES MORE SEVERE... PEOPLE MAY STILL HEAR SOUNDS BUT STRUGGLE TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND CONVERSATIONS... EVEN WHILE WEARING HEARING AIDS. AND IT'S A MYTH THAT COCHLEAR IMPLANTS ARE JUST FOR KIDS... DR. COOPER SAYS.

TAKE SOT | DR. EMILY COOPER | CLINICAL AUDIOLOGIST | OSF HEALTHCARE ILLINOIS NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

"From nine months, all the way to 95. As long as you're healthy enough to undergo an outpatient surgery, you can get a cochlear implant," Dr. Cooper says.

TAKE VO

DR. COOPER SAYS THEY'RE COMPLETELY UNDERUTILIZED... AND ONLY ROUGHLY 10-PERCENT OF PEOPLE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM A COCHLEAR IMPLANT... ACTUALLY HAVE ONE. FOR ADULTS EXPERIENCING HEARING DIFFICULTIES... DR. COOPER SAYS THE FIRST STEP IS MAKING SURE THEIR CURRENT HEARING AIDS ARE WORKING AS INTENDED... AND THAT YOU CAN GET THEM PROFESSIONALLY EVALUATED AND ADJUSTED IF NEEDED. IF CHALLENGES CONTINUE... SPEAK WITH YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER ABOUT SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN AUDIOLOGIST TO DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS.