

**HONORS SENIOR
PROJECT:**

**COCHLEAR IMPLANTS:
TWO SIDES OF A
CONTROVERSY**

Ruth Tag
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DEFINING HEARING LOSS

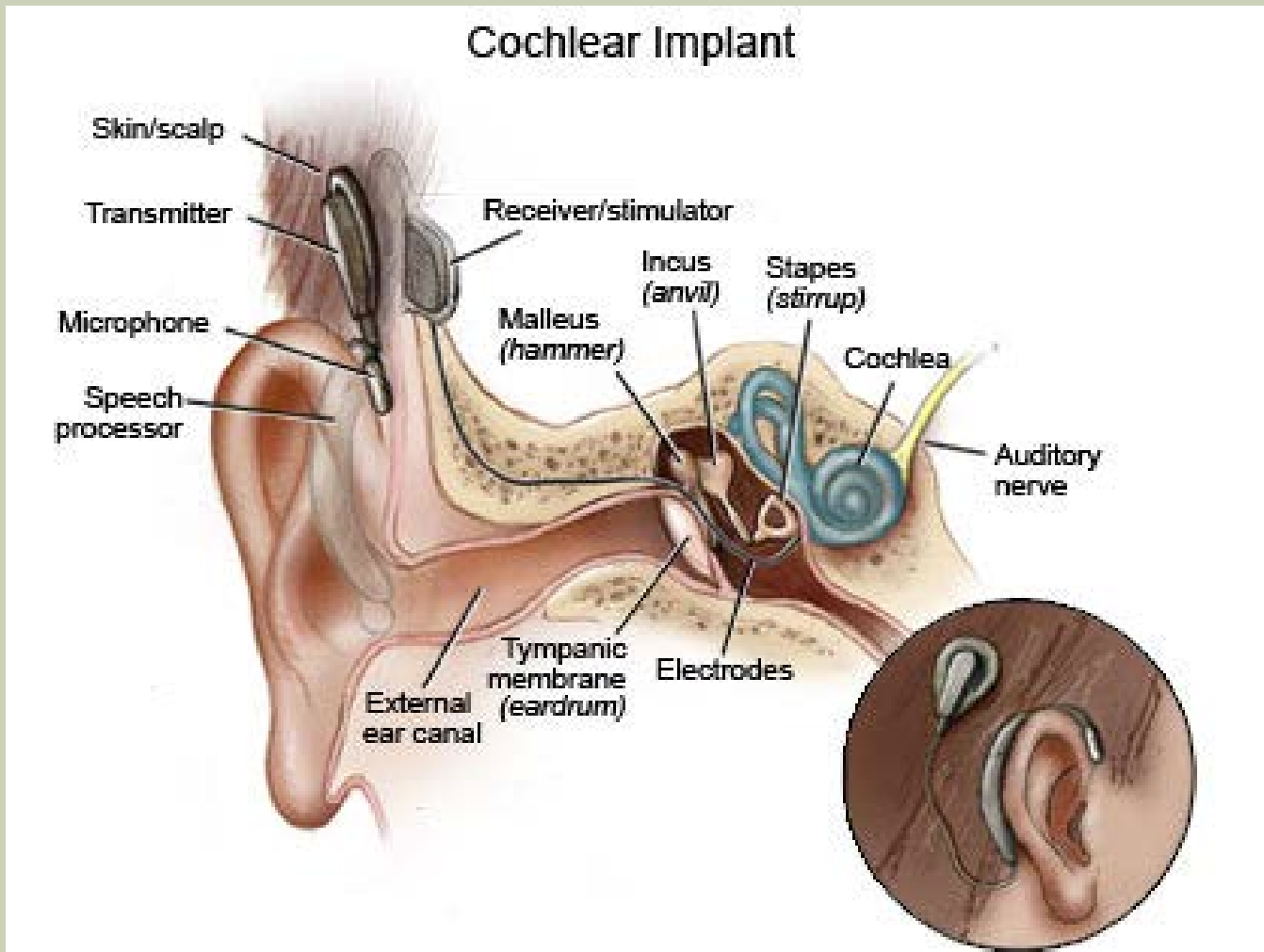
Hard of hearing: a hearing disorder, whether fluctuating or permanent, which adversely affects an individual's ability to communicate. The hard-of-hearing individual relies on the auditory channel as the primary sensory input for communication.

DEFINING DEAF VS DEAF

deaf: is defined as a hearing disorder that limits an individual's aural/oral communication performance to the extent that the primary sensory input for communication may be other than the auditory channel.

Deaf: a person who identifies with or participates in Deaf culture, and uses sign language as the main form of communication.

WHAT IS A COCHLEAR IMPLANT?



IMPLANTATION PROCESS

- **Eligibility**
- **Age**
- **Support**
- **Therapy**



IMPLANTATION AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

- **Sign Language**
- **Spoken English**
- **Bilingualism**



BENEFITS OF IMPLANTATION: DEVELOPMENT

- Overall sensory input
- Social and emotional cues
- Cause and effect relationships
- Executive functioning, sensory-motor and sequencing



HISTORY OF DEAF CULTURE

- First civil rights organization in the United States: 1880
- Deaf pride movements: 1980's
- Deafness: a culture not a disability



MEDICAL VIEWPOINT

- Hippocratic oath
- Early implantation means higher success rate.
- Complications normal compared to any minor surgery.



WHO'S CHOICE?

- When is someone ready to decide?
- Age?
- Education?
- Parental Rights?



THE 90%

**90% of deaf children are
born to hearing parents.**

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