

As the Cochlear Implant expectations indicated would happen, everything cited below became my experience. It was disheartening, to say the least.

My audiologist said everyone does the same thing I did. While listening to the list of expectations, people tend to think "Oh, I'll be different. That won't happen to me!" She said she has yet to hear a recipient say they are glad they have the implant within the first two months after activated.

1. Hearing ability with a Cochlear Implant varies from person to person.
2. Having Cochlear Implant surgery will destroy all remaining hearing in the implanted ear and does not cure hearing loss.
3. At first, sounds will seem very different from how you remember them.
4. In order to receive the most benefit from the Cochlear Implant, you must use the implant system all the time.
5. At first, all voices may sound the same. Often times they seem robotic or like cartoon characters. This is normal.
6. The clarity of speech sounds continues to improve over time.
7. You will benefit from consistent listening practice and training.
8. If you use a hearing aid in your opposite ear, it is beneficial to stop using it for a couple of months.
9. It may take months or even years to reach best hearing performance.
10. It can be difficult to recognize which direction the sounds are coming from.
11. Background noise can make it difficult to understand conversations.
12. You might always need to rely on lip-reading to enhance your communication, especially in noisy situations or in group conversations.
13. Talking on the telephone will always be more difficult than face-to-face communication. Not all Cochlear Implant recipients are able to use the telephone successfully.
14. Your ability to understand the speech when watching television will likely vary depending on the person talking and other factors.
15. Music will sound different from what you remember. Some Cochlear Implant recipients never enjoy listening to music.
16. Becoming a Cochlear Implant recipient is a time-consuming process, which requires a lot of dedication and patience.