



Invention by Parent to Help Deaf Son Can Benefit Many CI Users

- Innovative shirt design offers active cochlear implant (CI) users a new attractive, functional alternative to wearing CI sound processors in the water or when participating in physical activities -

Los Angeles, CA, (2014) Ci Wear, apparel manufacturer, announces the launch of its new swim (rash guard) and compression fit shirt with sleeve pockets designed to hold and conceal cochlear implant processors and sound cords, or other digital devices.

Cochlear implant users and parents of children with cochlear implants often find it difficult to wear their cochlear implants when participating in a variety of activities, such as swimming, sports or even visiting an amusement park or beach. Comfort, loss or damage are primary issues when considering participating in an activity, especially swimming. "We've struggled for many years to come up with a good way to wear the cochlear implant processors at the beach," states Terrie Kellmeyer, parent of two children with cochlear implants. "We tried Ziploc bags and fanny packs, modified Otter box containers, and many different homemade pocket shirts to hold the cochlear implant processor. At a routine visit to our audiologist I was shown a prototype of the new Ci Wear shirt. At first glance it seemed like the perfect solution for wearing the CI processors at the beach." Terrie continued, "The Ci Wear shirt allows for everything to be kept neatly concealed in a good-looking high-quality shirt. It also works well for other sports activities such as soccer and basketball. We love our Ci Wear shirt!"

Ci Wear's patent pending design shirt has pockets on each sleeve. Inside the pocket is a retaining band to clip the CI processor and hold it in place. There is a small opening on the back side of the pocket to thread the sound cord through to the inside of the shirt. This is how the shirt conceals most of the cord minimizing the risk of snags. At the neckline, there are two small loops to guide the cord out the collar to the attachment point on the head. These loops help keep the sound cords to the back of the head, reducing tangles and allows for rapid location of headpiece if dislodged. Once inserted in the pocket, all of the external components of the cochlear implant, except for the portion of the wire and headpiece that come out the collar, are completely concealed inside the shirt. "By limiting the exposure of the CI processor and sound cord, we have reduced the possibilities of loss or damage to these expensive hearing devices," states Eric Sherman, parent of a child with bilateral cochlear implants and inventor of Ci Wear.

"The idea for Ci Wear came from watching our son swim with his waterproof CI processors," explains Sherman, "We noticed our son spent a lot of time attending to his waterproof processors and headpieces, instead of playing. We wanted to find something that our son could wear that improved his experience in the water and not be a hindrance." By integrating the CI processors into the shirt, CI users just need to slide their processor into the sleeve pockets, thread the cords through the shirt, put it on and play.

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Ci Wear is focused on enhancing the CI user's wearing experience. "Cochlear implants are a life changing technology and users should be focused on their activity and not their equipment," states Sherman. Ci Wear is a compression fit shirt that can be used as a rash guard in the water or an active wear shirt on land. The shirt features raglan sleeves and flat lock stitching for added comfort and flexibility. Made of KoreDry™ fabric, Ci Wear shirts are water-repellent, breathable, quick drying, and offer UV sun protection. Ci Wear shirts can be used with any device that fits in the pocket and has a cord long enough to reach the users head. For water use, electronic devices must be waterproof.

More About Ci Wear

Ci Wear launched in January 2014. The company is focused on improving the cochlear implant user's wearing experience when participating in physical activities. Shirts are made in the USA and sell direct to consumers via online store. For more information visit Ciwear.com.

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