Journal of Bioengineering and Bioelectronics

Open access Perspective

Role of Neuroprosthetic Devices as a Cochlear Implant

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INTRODUCTION

Neuroprosthetics is a branch of biomedical engineering and neuroscience that works on creating neural prostheses. They are sometimes compared to a brain-computer interface, which is a device that connects the brain to a computer rather than a device designed to replace biological functionality. A collection of devices known as neural prostheses can replace a motor, sensory, or cognitive modality that may have been compromised by injury or disease. One example of this kind of equipment is cochlear implants. These gadgets substitute the capabilities performed by the eardrum and stapes while mimicking the recurrence examination acted in the cochlea. The sound is gathered and processed by an external unit through a microphone; after that, the processed signal is sent to an implanted unit that uses a microelectrode array to stimulate the auditory nerve. These devices are intended to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities by replacing or enhancing damaged senses. Additionally, neuroscientists frequently use these implantable devices in animal experiments to gain a deeper comprehension of the brain's structure and function. The subject can be studied without the device affecting the results by wirelessly monitoring the electrical signals sent by electrodes implanted in their brain.

DESCRIPTION

A better understanding of the relationship between local populations of neurons that are responsible for a specific function would result from accurately probing and recording the electrical signals in the brain. The neuro-prosthetic right now going through the most broad use is the cochlear embed, with more than 300,000 being used overall starting around 2012. An electronic device that improves hearing is called a cochlear implant. If you can't hear well with hearing aids and have severe inner ear damage, it might be an option for you. The cochlear implant has two parts: An external one with a microphone, speech processor, and transmitter and an internal one with a receiver/stimulator that sits just below the skin and sends signals to an electrode array that is deep in the inner ear. Sound in the climate is gotten by the receiver, dissected and switched over completely to electrical signs by the processor, and sent through the skin by the transmitter. These signals are picked up by the receiver and sent to the electrode array, which is carefully positioned to deliver electrical activity patterns to the auditory nerve in the same way that healthy hair cells do. People are able to regain some hearing thanks to the implant; however, it does not completely restore normal hearing and requires recipients to spend time learning how to use the device to interpret what they hear. Over 200,000 people around the world have had implants so far. To enhance performance and produce a more naturalistic sound, scientists continue to work on the technology of the external machinery as well as the design and positioning of the internal electrode.

CONCLUSION

A cochlear implant, in contrast to hearing aids, which amplify sound, sends sound signals to the hearing (auditory) nerve by avoiding damaged parts of the ear. A sound processor that fits behind the ear is used in cochlear implants. A receiver that is inserted beneath the skin behind the ear receives sound signals that are captured by the processor. The recipient conveys the messages to anodes embedded in the snail-moulded internal ear (cochlea). The auditory nerve is stimulated by the signals, which are then sent to the brain. Those signals are interpreted by the brain as sounds, but these sounds will not be the same as natural hearing. Learning to interpret signals from a cochlear implant takes time and training. The majority of people with cochlear implants experience significant improvements in speech comprehension within 3 to 6 months of use.

Received:	31-January-2023	**Manuscript No:**	jbtc-23-16028
Editor assigned:	02-February-2023	**PreQC No:**	jbtc-23-16028(PQ)
Reviewed:	16-February-2023	**QC No:**	jbtc-23-16028
Revised:	21-February-2023	**Manuscript No:**	jbtc-23-16028(R)
Published:	28-February-2023	**DOI:**	10.35841/jbtc.23.5.03

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Citation Robinson I (2023) Role of Neuroprosthetic Devices as a Cochlear Implant. BioEng BioElectron. 05:03.