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Real Life Experience with a Cochlear Implant and an MRI

With nine and a half years of experience with Cochlear bilateral CIs, I have seen a lot of discussion about the safety compatibility of different manufacturers devices with MRIs. While every one of them makes claims, I had some real-life experience yesterday when I had a "trip and fall" on a concrete driveway. My hands were carrying tools, so my head took the brunt of the fall. My CIs went flying (they were fine) but I broke a facial bone under my left eye (with serious damage to my sight).

Sarasota Memorial ER is an amazing facility.

They send me through a battery of tests.

An MRI would have been in order but as I have pointed out, most MRIs are to the head.

No matter which manufacturer of CI I had, the magnets would fog the image, and the MRI would have been worthless. They had to opt for a CAT Scan and hope for the best based on other criteria to gauge if I had a concussion.

Obviously, I am not in a comfortable place. I pray there will be no concussion that will show up later. But without surgical removal of the magnets, the test would not show anything.

I have yet to meet a CI surgeon who would opt to remove and replace the magnet no matter how simple the procedure might be, there is unnecessary risk of infection.

I am telling about my experience for those candidates who are choosing companies and persuaded by the MRI arguments.

If you require regular MRIs to anyplace below the neck, look at all criteria to make your choice, not only the claims of MRI safety. If you require a frequent head scan, talk to your medical professional and/or radiologist about the fogging issue. You may need to use another option for those scans.