

Dmitrij from St. Petersburg, Russia ó CI-Implantation



I very well remember this beautiful sunny day on which we were told that our child was deaf ó it is deaf. The doctors continued to talk to us, wrote something on some documents, but I did neither see nor hear them. It got very silent and dark around me. Tears started dripping from my eyes. I could not understand why? How could something like this happen to us? The shock was too big!

The first feeling of despair changed into active determination. Children are very sensitive and therefore parents must never lose their courage. We decided to definitely to go to any length to make the impossible possible for our little one. The internet was certainly helpful. At the beginning we did not even know where and what to look for and simply read everything on deafness. Finally we found out that the only possible solution in our situation was a cochlear implant. We learnt that this surgery is also performed in Russia, but the most experienced clinics and doctors in this field are in Germany, where such surgeries are common and performed regularly. Furthermore, quality of the medical equipment and service were said to be very good and trustworthy there.

So we had to find somebody who was able to recommend the best clinic and surgeon in Germany to us and also to organise everything locally. On the internet there are many companies offering similar services of this kind ó but how could one be sure that they work professionally?

We decided to go a different way. In order to make sure to cooperate only with trustworthy partners, my husband called the company Cochlear in Australia ó one of the worldwide leading manufacturers of cochlear implants. There we were given the contact of the office in England and then, after that the contact details in Switzerland. In this miraculous way we got in touch with Dr. Dr. Monika Lehnhardt. Dr. Lehnhardt's husband is the ENT medical Professor Dr. Dr. hc. hc. med. dent. Ernst Lehnhardt ó who is renowned worldwide. He is the doctor who performed the very first cochlear implantation in Russia!

It became obvious that Dr. Dr. Lehnhardt has over 35 years of experience in the medical field and is one of the partners of the company Monsana AG which is closely cooperating with leading university clinics and private clinics! We were simply very lucky!

The conviction that we could not possibly find a better partner was a relief. We received complete documentation about the recommended clinic, the surgeon and the location of the treatment. We were offered different hotels to choose from under consideration of our

financial possibilities. Also after completion of the surgery and the treatment we were given good advice and assistance.

I had not expected that everything would be organized so well. The most agreeable thing was that we never had to wait anywhere.

We were welcomed friendly everywhere and anytime. Everything was always prepared for our arrival. The feeling to be in good hands accompanied us throughout our stay in Germany.

We were given a tour of the city and shown the shops where we could buy our favourite baby food. Only four days after the surgery we already went for a stroll in a little medieval town in France.

As the reason for the journey had not been a pleasant one, it is somehow strange that it left so many agreeable impressions. The surgery was successful and our little one was in the best of hands with the clinic staff.

Today our son can already hear very well and starts to talk. To think about what would be today, if we had not decided to do this surgery, is awful. Once I read somewhere: "children are angels, and if they choose us, they know exactly that we will help them". And it is very good that there are people who know exactly how to do this and who give us their support.