

## REPORT ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT MEETING, APRIL 2017, MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

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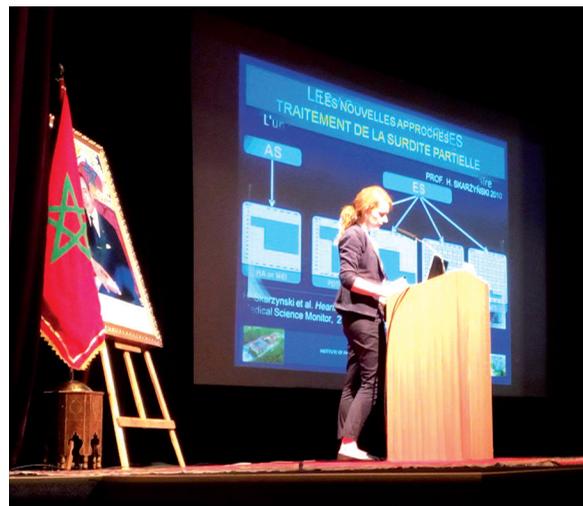
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The XXXX Congress of the Moroccan Society of Otolaryngologists was the first African congress on cochlear implants. The congress was one of the largest conferences of physicians and otolaryngologists in French-speaking Africa. It collected representatives of Cameroon, Mauritania, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Algeria, and Congo. The main topics of the congress were surgery of the ear, especially surgical techniques and results of cochlear implants in North and Central Africa, as well as ear surgery in cases of chronic cholesteatoma ear infections and surgery of head and neck cancers, especially salivary glands tumors.

Representatives of the World Hearing Center were doctor Kamila Osinska and engineer Aymen Najjar. During the congress Dr Osinska gave a lecture on 20 years of experience in the treatment of hearing loss at the Institute of Hearing Physiology and Pathology covering structure of the World Hearing Center, milestones, and major clinical and scientific activities, including the Window Approach Workshops, where representatives from Africa regularly participate. Partial deafness and its treatment by cochlear implantation was discussed. It was well received among participants of the conference due to a much narrower qualification criteria for this procedure in Africa. In the session summary, the President of the Moroccan Society of Otolaryngologists, Abdelhamid Benghalem, commented on the extensive experience of cochlear implantations at the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing – over 5,000 implanted devices.

In addition, the topic of bone conduction implants, which are conducted at the World Hearing Center, was presented by Dr Osinska. Qualification criteria and surgical techniques were discussed, and the use of these devices in a number of clinical cases was analyzed. The most important factors and indications which must be considered in qualifying a patient for a bone conduction implant were outlined.

Engineer Aymen Najjar discussed the sound and speech processors of hearing implants and the issue of



Kamila Osinska presenting her paper

telemedicine. He illustrated the working basis of telefitting and its advantages for hearing implants, and described the experience of the World Hearing Center with remote consultations.

During the session on oto-surgery and the surgical treatment of chronic ear infections, the most experienced surgeons in French-speaking Africa presented their knowledge and techniques. Professor Mustafa Detsouli and Professor Abdelhamid Benghalem discussed canal wall up and wall down techniques, with follow-up reconstruction, scope of treatment, diagnostic imaging, and differences in progression of cholesteatoma in children and adults.

At the end of the Congress Prof. Abdelhamid Benghalem nominated Marrakesh as the organization of the IFOS World Congress in 2021. He expressed the hope that the 1<sup>st</sup> African Cochlear Meeting will mark an excellent prelude to the 2021 Congress.