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| Library concerned: Library and Knowledge Services, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust  Name of case study: Providing a patient with information to aid a difficult decision  Date of interview: 19th December 2019 | |
| **Interviewee** | Name:  Job Title:  Trust/Employing body: Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust  Email:  Tel: |
| **Please note: you should only provide interviewee details here if consent**  **to share on the national blog has been obtained** |
| **S****ummary of problem or reason for enquiry** | My client had a patient with severe hearing loss who was extremely apprehensive about having a cochlear implant, which was the best option to improve their hearing. My client had seen a programme on TV which suggested a link between social isolation and the development of dementia. My client was concerned for their patient when they told them that they had not been mixing with other people because of their hearing loss and only had social contact with one close relative. My client discussed the possible link between hearing loss, social isolation and dementia with the patient and they agreed that my client could ask me to conduct a literature search to establish if there was any evidence for a link between hearing loss and dementia. |
| **Brief description of the information found / service provided** | As library and knowledge specialist I conducted a search and found that there was evidence to suggest that hearing loss and social isolation were independent risk factors for dementia. One review suggested that both of these factors were modifiable. There was also some recent evidence that hearing aids and cochlear implants could improve cognitive function. |

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| **Summary of outcome and impact** | My client gave the search results, the summary I wrote and the review paper to the patient. After reading the information, the patient agreed to proceed with the cochlear implant. |
| **Immediate Impact**  **(including quotes)** | After reading the information and discussing it with my client, the patient agreed to have the cochlear implant. The patient found the summary I provided very helpful.  My client also said that my search had saved them a significant amount of time and they had been able to see patients instead of doing the search themselves. They said that “there was no way on earth I could do this in work time, I would have to cancel a morning’s worth of patients”. “The impact was dramatic, it has changed someone’s life”. |
| **Probable future Impact**  **(including quotes)** | My client stated that the results of my search had “Given me knowledge that I can apply to other patients” and that they were “More aware of the risk and more likely to do something about it”. |