INTRODUCTION
Post-operative antibiotics are rarely used in clean-contaminated ear surgeries, but often prescribed for cochlear implantation (1). A recent Cochrane review found no role for post-operative antibiotics in general otologic surgery (2). Unnecessary antibiotic use can lead to increased treatment costs, side effects, and resistance (3, 4). It is important to consider if the benefits of post-operative antibiotics in CI surgery outweigh the risks of unnecessary antibiotics usage.

OBJECTIVES
Evaluate whether prophylactic antibiotics following CI surgery impact short-term infection rates.

METHODS
• Infection rates were compared in a control group (Group 1) that received antibiotics between 2013-2015 (n = 95) to patients (Group 2) that did not receive post-operative antibiotics between 2015-2016 (n=40) by a single surgeon.
• In a second analysis, 24 patients that received post operative antibiotics concurrent to the study group, but performed by a second surgeon (DMZ) (Group 3), were compared to Group 2 patients.

STUDY RESULTS
• There were no post-operative infections over the first 30 days across all groups (Table 1).
• Three complications were reported in the cohort of patients (Table 2).
• No infections occurred in patients undergoing sequential bilateral CI surgery (n=20) or explantation with simultaneous reimplantation for device failure (n=8).

CONCLUSIONS
• Post-operative antibiotics following cochlear implantation (CI) did not impact infection rates in the peri-operative period.
• The ANS survey results suggest that a large number of surgeons are prescribing post-operative antibiotics despite the lack of data proving their efficacy.
• Larger, prospective, randomized studies would provide more definitive data on the effectiveness of post-operative antibiotics following CI.
• This pilot study should encourage surgeons to re-evaluate standard practice around antibiotic use after CI surgery.

Citations