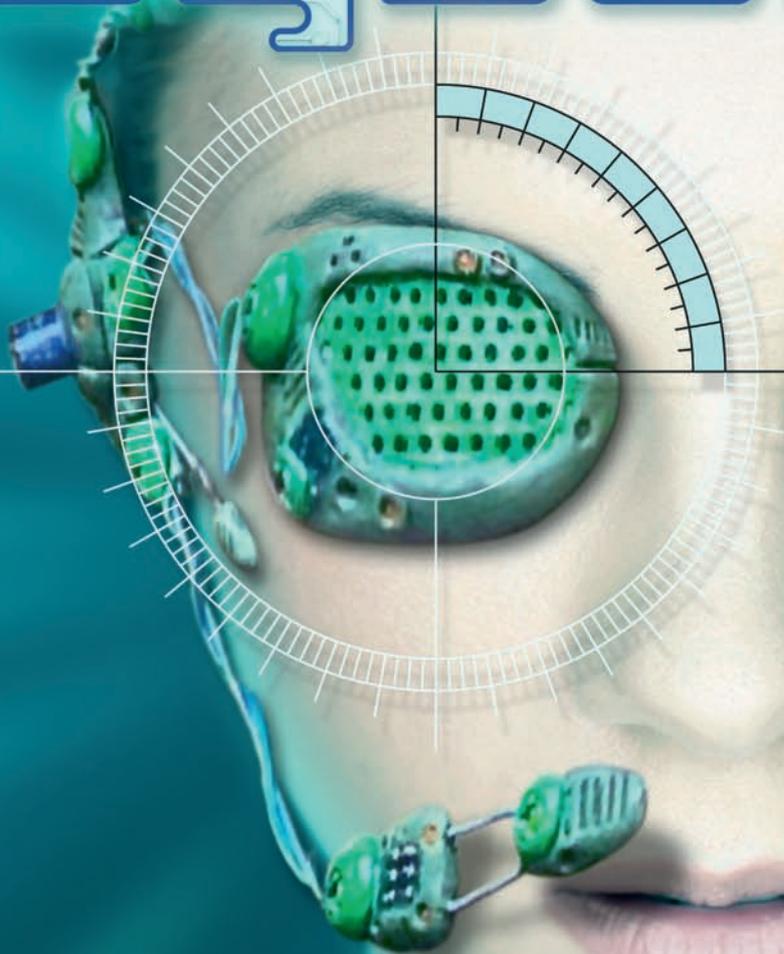


# The Day of the Cyborg



## Facts for your success

- ▷▷ Explores symbiosis of man and machine
- ▷▷ Fact-based look at gripping advantages and drawbacks of neurochip
- ▷▷ Spectacular examples of medical miracles

# The Day of the Cyborg

**T**he dream of enhancing the functions of the human body and optimizing its performance is hundreds of years old. One means of achieving this is through the fusion of man and machine. In recent times, this technology has made incredible progress, achieving results that were until recently found only in science fiction. The key to these achievements is the neurochip, a tiny device that could turn us all into cyborgs...

Neurochips are systems of tiny electrodes implanted in the body, which connect with nerve cells and can read and transmit their electrical impulses. They can thus take over functions in the human brain. They harbor many dangers, but also many benefits for mankind, and the economic and medical potential is enormous. These are the issues at the heart of this documentary. It takes an objective and well-founded look at how the neurochip is used in medical practice today. The Cochlea implant, for example, allows the deaf to hear again; and the blind are able to "see" with the Artificial Vision System. But the most highly developed implant to date is the

neuro brain chip, called "BrainGate". Inserted into the human brain, it allows paraplegics to operate a computer or even to walk with the power of thought.

In the style of a thriller, we trace the developments leading to the spread of cybernetics in everyday life, an inevitable process that keeps provoking the question as to whether the neurochip really is "man's best friend". Graphs and computer simulations from leading institutes illustrate complex phenomena in an easily accessible manner. And thanks to CGI technology, we can almost feel the effects of neurochip surgery on selected patients. Weighing in with their expert opinions are scientists such as Prof. Fromherz of the Max Planck Institute, a pioneer of neurochip research, John Donoghue, head developer of "BrainGate", and "cyborg-man" Kevin Warwick.

In the future, artificial organs might function better than natural ones. We must ask ourselves today what forms of abuse are imaginable – and what are the ultimate consequences of this new technology...



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