

ANA/NJ Virtual/Zoom Meeting Report

February 28, 2021

Seventeen ANers including five board members attended our first trial “Zoom” meeting held Sunday afternoon, February 28, 2021. This turned out to be a very interesting and rewarding new way to share information and personal experiences about acoustic neuroma. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly. Many thanks go to Dave Belonger for arranging and moderating the session. Toward the close of the session there was agreement with Wilma Ruskin’s suggestion that we might try having a “virtual” meeting with a speaker – perhaps someone to present for hearing devices, or maybe tinnitus.

The meeting was an open discussion of a wide range of experiences with acoustic neuroma, including: (1) users of Phonak’s CROS hearing aids shared their experiences with this system for transmitting sound from the deaf side to the normal ear (CROS); BiCROS if there is some hearing loss in the normal ear; (2) two long-term Wait-and-Watch patients (17 years and 22 years) discussed MRI check-up intervals. It was noted that, for the multiple check-up scans needed for Wait-and-Watch, the possibility of having non-contrast MRIs could be discussed with your doctor. (See the article on “Wait-and-Scan Management” in the October 2019 issue of the Newsletter); (3) Gamma Knife radiosurgery (single-session) and CyberKnife radiotherapy (three sessions) were compared briefly; (4) there was discussion about types and ways to deal with tinnitus, including “Musical Ear Syndrome”; (5) coping with dry eye; (6) balance problems; (6) a case of cerebrospinal fluid leak (CSF).

Many thanks to all attendees for a very informative meeting with lively discussion. Stay tuned for future Zooms.