

Welcome,

Thank you for your interest in the Cochlear Implant Program at OHSU. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some background on the OHSU Cochlear Implant program as well as general information about the cochlear implant process.

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Program at OHSU has been in operation since 1983 and from that time, over 1,000 patients have received cochlear implants at OHSU. Our program has continued to grow over the years, making it one of the largest centers on the west coast, implanting over 100 patients in the last year. The OHSU Cochlear Implant team consists of Neurotologists and audiologists.

Criteria for cochlear implant candidacy in adults are determined by a severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss with limited benefit from hearing aids. To determine candidacy, patients are required to participate in a comprehensive audiological evaluation consisting of listening to sentences while wearing your hearing aids. **In order to evaluate hearing aid benefit, you must bring your hearing aids to the audiological evaluation appointment.** In addition, the patient must undergo a medical consultation consisting of a physical examination and an MRI and CT scan. Once eligibility is determined, our surgery authorization specialist will contact your insurance provider to determine your surgical benefits. The total cost of the implant, including the device, hospital fees, surgical fees, and programming for the first year is approximately \$75,000. Currently, the procedure is covered by the majority of insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid. **However, we urge all interested candidates to contact their insurance provider to determine if Cochlear Implants are a covered item in their policy.** When authorization has been obtained a surgery date will be scheduled.

The benefits a patient can expect vary considerably based on a number of factors including the degree and duration of the hearing loss and history of hearing aid use. At minimum, a cochlear implant will provide for the ability to hear and detect the presence of sound. Most patients will hear speech and environmental sounds and see an improvement in lip-reading skills. Many patients will see improvement beyond the minimum, including some understanding of speech without visual cues and even the ability to use the telephone. It is impossible to predict how well an individual will be able to understand speech after receiving a cochlear implant. For this reason, we continue to research in attempt to better understand the variability in patient performance post-implantation.

Significant improvements in cochlear implant technology continue to occur over time. Currently, the OHSU Cochlear Implant Program offers patients the choice of three cochlear implant devices: the Nucleus 5 System, by Cochlear Corporation; the Maestro system by Med-El; the HiResolution Bionic Ear System, by Advanced Bionics. We encourage you to refer to the implant manufacturer web sites (see attached) to get more information about each device. While the benefit derived from the implant is not specific to a particular device, there are differences between devices. These differences will be reviewed as part of the evaluation and consultation process.

Thank you again for your interest. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the OHSU Cochlear Implant Program office at 503-494-5171, or by email at cochlear@ohsu.edu.
Please bring this packet with you to your appointment.

Sincerely,

OHSU Cochlear Implant Program
Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery

What To Expect While Pursuing a Cochlear Implant Timeline of Events

- Patient Calls to begin Cochlear Implant process
- Welcome packet sent to patient and Scheduling/Authorization process begins
 - This may take from 2-4 weeks depending on insurance companies
- Audiological evaluation (day one)
 - This appointment lasts up to 120 minutes. This includes all testing including the completion of several questionnaires. **Determines if patient is a candidate. If not other appointments are cancelled**
- MRI and CT (different day AFTER day one)
 - These tests help us rule out any physical abnormalities that would prevent the cochlear implant from being properly inserted.
- Medical Evaluation (separate day AFTER day one)
 - The physician will review the MRI and CT and discuss the medical/surgical aspects of the cochlear implant.
- Device Review and Counseling on potential benefits (separate day AFTER day one)
 - This appointment usually lasts approximately 90 minutes. This includes time spent with an audiologist explaining the different implant systems OHSU offers.
- Obtain Authorization from insurance for Surgery (3-8 weeks)
- Pre-op appointment
- Surgery
 - It is generally 3-8 weeks from initial evaluation to surgery depending on authorization

COCHLEAR IMPLANT PATIENTS:
ADULT FOLLOW UP PROTOCOL

- I. POST OPERATIVE SITE CHECK: 2-5 WEEKS POST SURGERY
- II. INITIAL ACTIVATION: 2-5 WEEKS POST SURGERY
 - A. IMPLANT IS TURNED ON
- III. SECOND STIMULATION: 1-9 DAYS AFTER ACTIVATION
 - A. PROGRAMS ARE SET IN SPEECH PROCESSOR
- IV. FIRST FOLLOW-UP: 2-4 WEEKS AFTER SECOND STIMULATION
 - A. CHECK PATIENT'S PROGRESS, REVIEW ALL ACCESSORIES THAT CAME W/SPEECH PROCESSOR SYSTEM
- V. SECOND FOLLOW-UP: 2-4 WEEKS AFTER FIRST FOLLOW-UP
 - A. PATIENT IS PUT IN THE BOOTH TO HAVE HEARING TESTED TO COMPARE WITH PRE-IMPLANT TEST SCORES
 - B. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY
 - C. NEXT FOLLOW UP APPOINTMENT SCHEDULED ACCORDING TO HOW PATIENT IS ADJUSTING TO IMPLANT USE

REMAINDER OF APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED ARE SET ACCORDING TO THE PATIENT'S PROGRESS WITH THEIR IMPLANT. THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS ARE SET/BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- VI. 3 MONTH FOLLOW-UP:
 - A. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS
- VII. 6 MONTH FOLLOW-UP
 - A. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY
- VIII. 12 MONTH FOLLOW-UP
 - A. PATIENT IS PUT IN THE BOOTH TO HAVE HEARING TESTED/ TO COMPARE W/PREVIOUS TEST SCORES
 - B. AUDIOLOGIST CHECKS/FINE TUNES PROGRAMS IF NECESSARY

AFTER THE FIRST YEAR POST SURGERY PATIENTS ARE SEEN ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OR AS NEEDED.

ADULT COCHLEAR IMPLANT RESOURCES

COCHLEAR IMPLANT COMPANIES

Cochlear Corporation
13059 East Peakview Ave
Centennial, CO 80111
1-800-523-5798
www.cochlear.com

Advanced Bionics
12740 San Fernando Rd
Sylmar, CA 91342
1-800-678-2575
www.advancedbionics.com

Med-El
2511 Old Cornwallis Rd
Suite 100
Durham, NC 27713
www.medel.com

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Cochlear Implant Association, Inc.
<http://hearingloss.org/ciai/>

CI Hear
<http://www.cihear.com/>

Sources of Cochlear Implant Funding
www.listen-up.org/haidfund.htm

Cochlear Anatomy
oto.wustl.edu/cochlea/intro2.htm

The Hearing Exchange
<http://www.hearingexchange.com/resources/>

Cochlear Implants: Navigating a Forest of Information... One Tree at a Time"
by Debra Nussbaum at Gallaudet University
<http://clerccenter2.gallaudet.edu/KidsWorldDeafNet/e-docs/CI/index.html>

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Title: Rebuilt: How Becoming Part Computer Made Me More Human
Author: Michael Chorost
ISBN: 0618378294
SUMMARY: *Rebuilt* offers a unique perspective on life with a cochlear implant. This book is brilliantly and creatively authored by Michael Chorost, a cochlear implant user.

Title: Hear Again: Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant
Author: Arlene Romoff
ISBN: 0967784301
SUMMARY: A diary of Romoff's first-year experiences with her cochlear implant (CI), compiled from her Internet postings. This book chronicles one person's yearlong odyssey from deafness to functional hearing.

Cochlear Implant Accessories
www.gearforears.com

BILATERAL IMPLANT INFORMATION

Please visit <http://www.bilateral.cochlear.com> where you will find:

Link to "Find a Clinic"

Request to be connected to a bilateral recipient; testimonials

Link to downloadable (PDF) white papers and bibliography of research articles

Answers to common questions

Potential benefits/"If one works well, why get two?"

What about future technology?

How does receiving a second implant affect programming and therapy?

EMAIL LISTSERV RESOURCES

York Cochlear Implant Forum

Send email to: listserv@yorku.ca

Directions: Leave subject line blank. In body of message type "subscribe ci (your 1st name last name)" For example: "subscribe ci john smith"

Yahoo! Groups (<http://groups.yahoo.com>)

a) CiCircle

Send email to: cicircle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

b) CiHear

Send email to: CIHear-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

c) ci

Send email to: ci-subscribe@yahoogroups.com