

Welcome,

I want to 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 our program and with information on the process for obtaining a cochlear implant.

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Program at OHSU has been in operation since 1983 and since that time over 1,000 patients have received cochlear implants at OHSU. Approximately 40% of these patients are children. 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 Cochlear Implant Program is staffed by Neurotologists, and audiologists, one who specializes in aural rehabilitation. We offer our patients the choice of three excellent devices: The Nucleus System, by Cochlear Americas Corporation, the HiResolution Bionic Ear System, by Advanced Bionics Corporation and the Maestro system by MedEl Corporation.

The criteria for a child to be considered a candidate for a cochlear implant is as follows:

- Have a severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss
- Be at least 12 months of age
- Have used amplification on a regular basis for a minimum of 6 months
- Receive limited benefit from traditional amplification
- Be enrolled in an Education/therapy program that stresses the use of audition for the development of spoken language
- Parents must have realistic expectations on the potential benefits of a cochlear implant

The assessment protocol at OHSU involves:

- A comprehensive audiological assessment
- A developmental evaluation
- A communication assessment
- A medical examination
- Input from school personnel

Cochlear implants are covered by most insurance carriers, including the Oregon Health Plan. Your exact benefit will be determined by our authorization specialist. Coverage includes the implant system, surgery and all subsequent programming of the device.

The benefit a child can expect from a cochlear implant varies. Most children whose hearing loss is identified at birth and who receive implants at an early age are able to use audition to develop spoken language. Research clearly points out that the two factors that influence benefit are the age the child is implanted and the type of therapy the child receives.

All parents are encouraged to meet other families who have children with implants. These will be provided to you at your initial evaluation. In addition, parents are encouraged to contact the various groups that serve children with hearing loss. A list is provided.

We understand that the process of getting a cochlear implant is very complicated. The purpose of this letter is to give you preliminary information on the process at OHSU. We encourage you to contact the implant company web sites (see attached) to get more information on the devices and to help you to formulate questions before you come to the clinic.

Enclosed is an overview of the appointment schedule, and what will take place. Each appointment is approximately 90 minutes. In addition, I have enclosed a release of information form. Under the new HIPPA Laws, we cannot contact your child's education system without your signed consent. To proceed with the evaluation we **MUST** have your signed release of information. We will contact your child's education program to inform them of your child's appointment date. **Please bring this packet with you to your appointment.**

Thank you again for your interest, and should you have any question please feel free to contact one of us by phone or email.

Sincerely,

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

What to Expect While Pursuing a Cochlear Implant

Time line 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
- Parent/Professional Meeting (day one) –**Not Needed for children 4 years and older**
 - This appointment usually lasts approximately 90 minutes. This includes a question and answer session, including the completion of several questionnaires. This appointment allows the audiologist to meet your child and obtain some history about your child’s hearing loss. **We request that a representative from your child’s regional/educational program attend this appointment with you.**
- Audiological Testing (day two/or farther out on a separate day)
 - This appointment usually lasts approximately 120 minutes. This includes all testing and determines if patient is a candidate. If not, other appointments are cancelled. Child needs to be at least 10 months old for this testing.
- MRI and CT (day three/separate day)
 - These tests help us rule out any physical abnormalities that would prevent the cochlear implant from being properly inserted.
- Medical Evaluation (day three/separate day)
 - 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 (day three/separate day)
 - The audiologist reviews the patient’s implant choices
- Developmental Evaluation (day four)
 - The Developmental Evaluation is completed at the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) on the 7th floor of Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. This visit requires a separate registration at CDRC. The Cochlear Implant Administrative Assistant will help with these appointments.
- Obtain Authorization from insurance for Surgery (4-8 weeks)
- Pre-op appointment
- Surgery
 - It is generally 4-8 weeks from initial evaluation to surgery depending on authorization

COCHLEAR IMPLANT PATIENTS: **PEDIATRIC FOLLOW UP PROTOCOL**

- I. EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW: AFTER SURGERY/BEFORE ACTIVATION
 - A. REVIEW ALL EQUIPMENT THAT CAME W/SPEECH PROCESSOR SYSTEM
- II. INITIAL ACTIVATION: 2-5 WKS 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 WEEKS POST ACTIVATION/STIMULATION
 - A. CHECK PATIENT'S PROGRESS
- V. SECOND FOLLOW-UP: 2 WEEKS AFTER 2 WEEK FOLLOW-UP
 - A. PATIENT IS PUT IN THE BOOTH TO HAVE HEARING TESTED/
TO COMPARE W/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 W/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.

PEDIATRIC 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

Alexander Graham Bell Association
www.agbell.org

John Tracy Clinic
www.jtc.org

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

Listen Up
www.listen-up.org/

Oral Deaf Education
www.oraldeafed.org/

Tucker-Maxon Oral School
www.oraldeafed.org/schools/tmos

CI Hear
www.cihear.com/

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

The Hearing Exchange
www.hearingexchange.com

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>

National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management
www.infanthearing.org

Oregon Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ch/hearing/index.shtml>

Oregon Department of Education – description of regional programs
www.ode.state.or.us/groups/supportstaff/specializedservices/oregonmap/regional/

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

a) CiCircle: <http://www.cicircle.org/>

This is an excellent web site. Strongly recommended.

PEDIATRIC COCHLEAR IMPLANT RESOURCES

Public Resources

Oregon Department of Education – description of regional programs

www.ode.state.or.us/groups/supportstaff/specializedservices/oregonmap/regional/

Eastern Oregon Regional Program – Contact: Deb Oliver (doliver@umesd.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Baker, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa
10100 N. McAlister Rd.
Island City, OR 97850-2193
(541) 936-4106

Central Oregon Regional Program – Contact: Diane Tipton (dtipton@hdesd.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Harney, Jefferson, Sherman, Wheeler
520 NW Wall St.
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 383-6345

Southern Oregon Regional Program – Contact: Mark Moskowitz (mark_moskowitz@soesd.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake
101 N. Grape St.
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 776-8555

Cascade Regional Program – Contact: Jean Orr (jean_orr@lblesd.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Benton, Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Linn
905 4th Avenue SE
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 812-2600

Willamette Regional Program – Contact: Eleni Boston (elenibos@aol.com)

Counties Served: Marion, Polk, Yamhill
2611 Pringle Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 385-4641

Columbia Regional Program – Contact: Gail Robbins (grobbins@pps.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Multnomah, Clackamas, Hood River, Wasco
501 N. Dixon
Portland, OR 97227
(503) 916-5570

Lane Regional Program – Contact: Judy Newman (jrn@uoregon.edu)

Counties Served: Lane
1200 Highway 99N
Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 461-8374

Northwest Regional Program – Contact: Laurie Harrison (lharrison@nwresd.k12.or.us)

Counties Served: Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington
5825 NE Ray Circle
Hillsboro, OR 97214
(503) 614-1251

Private Resources

Oregon Health & Sciences University

<http://www.ohsu.edu/ent/ear/cochimplants.html>

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd.

PV-01

Portland, OR 97239

(503) 494-5171

Hearing & Speech Institute

<http://www.hearingandspeech.biz/>

1675 SW Marlow Avenue

Suite 200

Portland, OR 97225-5104

(503) 228-6479

Tucker-Maxon Oral School

www.oraldeafed.org/schools/tmos

2860 SE Holgate Blvd

Portland, OR 97202

(503) 235-6551

Eugene Hearing & Speech Center

<http://www.eugenehearingspeech.org/>

1500 West 12th Ave

Eugene, OR 97402

(541) 485-8521

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?

Rehabilitation Information

A free, nonprofit website to help parents, of children with hearing loss, teach their child learn to listen and talk;

EQUAL VOICE FOR DEAF CHILDREN (<http://www.evdcweb.org>)