



### **Will I need time off work?**

Most people take a week off work. They are then able to resume normal activities.

### **How long does the implant last?**

Your whole life. Cochlear implants have less than a 2% failure rate. Hence, there is rarely a need to remove/replace them.

### **Will I get one or two?**

Initially you will get an implant on one ear. Many of our clients enjoy the benefits of a second implant 6 to 12 months later.

### **Can the processor be taken off?**

The sound processor (external part) is removed for showers, swimming and sleeping. The implant is completely under the skin so is not effected. A waterproof case can be purchased if you would like to swim when wearing your sound processor.

### **How long will it take for me to achieve my best results?**

Most clients experience immediate benefits at switch on with noticeable improvements continuing over the next three months. The results do vary greatly from person to person. To optimise progress, it is recommended to follow your home based listening program which will be provided to you by your audiologist.

### **How often will I need to attend appointments?**

In the first year most clients attend 3 to 6 appointments. Subsequent years 1 to 2 appointments per year. All appointments in the first year are covered by the initial clinical fee and there are no additional costs.

### **What are the limitations for cochlear implants?**

A cochlear implant doesn't restore hearing back to normal. You will always have some difficulty hearing in very noisy situations. You may continue to require subtitles for movies on TV and some people will only be able to understand conversation in quiet. However, almost everyone reports improved quality of life and are happy with the benefits provided by their cochlear implant.

### **How do I get the process started / what is the next step?**

Book a cochlear implant assessment appointment at Neurosensory. This will be a 1 to 2 hour appointment booked with an Implant Audiologist.

At this appointment you will be given information as to whether you will benefit from a cochlear implant.

For further information please call  
**1300 965 513**  
or visit our website [www.nsu.com.au](http://www.nsu.com.au)

# Cochlear Implants: Frequently Asked Questions



## When should I look into a cochlear implant?

It is time when you struggle to hear conversation even when wearing hearing aids or have a severe hearing loss in at least one ear.

## How will a cochlear implant be better than a hearing aid?

For many people with a severe hearing loss, hearing aids provide volume but limited clarity. This is because of damage to hair cells in the inner ear.

The cochlear implant replaces the function of the damaged inner ear. This enhances clarity of sound and improves ability to understand speech.

## What is a cochlear implant?

The cochlear implant consists of an external sound processor and an implant. The surgeon positions the implant under the skin and into the inner ear. The part in the inner ear has 22 tiny hearing electrodes.



Sound Processor



Wearing the sound processor



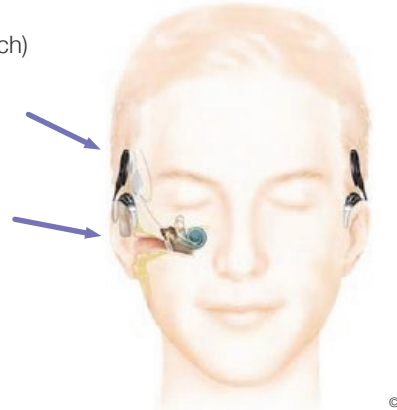
Implant

## How do you know that a cochlear implant will work for me?

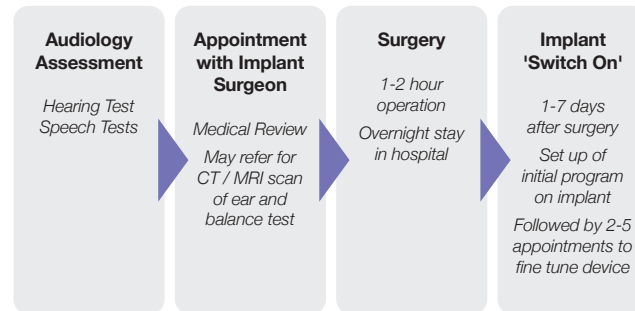
You will attend an appointment with an Implant Audiologist where you will complete speech tests to find out how much you understand with hearing aids on (you will be asked to repeat words and sentences). Based on your score we can determine if you will do better with a cochlear implant or a hearing aid.

## How does a cochlear implant work?

- The Sound Processor picks up sound (eg. Speech)
- Sound is sent through the coil to the implant under the skin
- Signal moves to the inner ear where the tiny electrodes are stimulated. The hearing nerve picks up the signals and sends them to the brain.



## What's Involved?



## How much does a cochlear implant cost?

The cost of the cochlear implant is covered by private health insurance. Silver level or higher hospital cover is needed. Audiology fees in the first year will be around \$2000 to \$3000. Other expenses include gap payments for the anaesthetist and implant surgeon.

After the first year there is an annual programming appointment. The out-of-pocket cost for this appointment is \$145 (\$89 if you have a pension card).

If cost is preventing you from hearing better, please talk to us about repayment plans or subsidies available.

## What does a cochlear implant sound like?

A cochlear implant sounds unusual at first. It has been described as sounding electronic and a bit like a chipmunk. Over a period of 3 to 12 months the ability to understand speech improves substantially and almost all adults report that the clarity is far superior to a hearing aid.

## Am I too old?

There is no age limit. Many clients at Neurosensory were over 80 years of age when they first received a cochlear implant. All clients report an improved quality of life, less frustration and increased independence.

## Is a cochlear implant only for people who are totally deaf?

No. Initially cochlear implants were only for people who had profound hearing loss. However, technology and surgical procedures have improved over the past 30 years. Hence, cochlear implants now provide substantial benefit to many people with hearing loss who struggle to hear conversation clearly.

## Can I wear a hearing aid on the other ear?

Yes! Hearing from two ears has many benefits. These include better understanding of speech in noise and improved ability to tell the direction of sound.

## Will I be able to hear on the phone?

Over 70% of Neurosensory clients can use the phone. Phone calls can even be streamed directly to the implant from a mobile phone which improves clarity and ease of listening.

## How long does the operation take?

Implant surgery takes approximately 1 to 2 hours and involves an overnight stay in hospital.