

# You are an audiological candidate for a cochlear implant

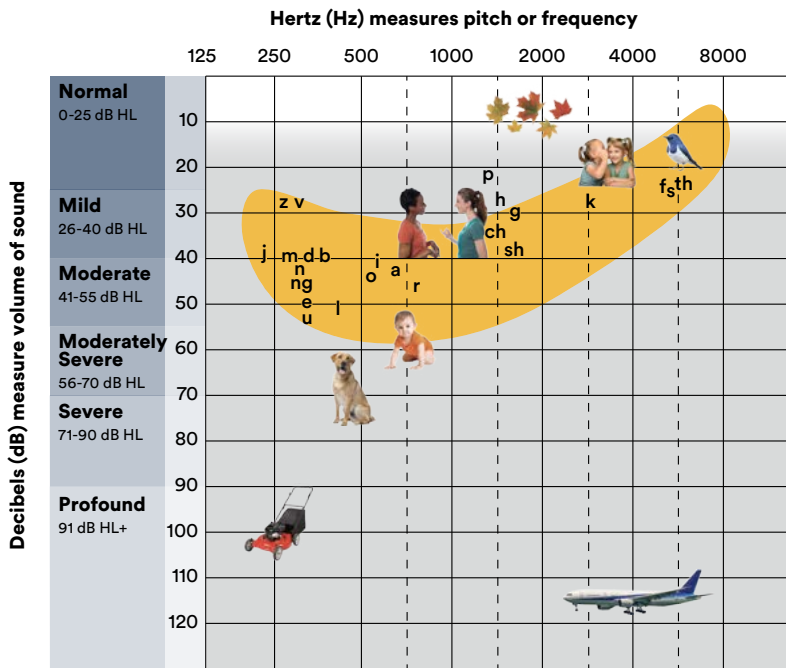
## What happens next?

### How does a cochlear implant help?

A cochlear implant can improve hearing sensitivity<sup>1</sup> and speech understanding.<sup>2</sup>

### Audiogram of familiar sounds

An audiogram is a graph that represents the way your ears respond to specific sounds. It illustrates your responses to sounds of different pitch and loudness. The large yellow oval shape depicts where the most common speech sounds used in everyday conversation occur.



### Your current hearing thresholds

Your clinician can plot your hearing thresholds on this audiogram.

O=air conduction threshold with right ear

X=air conduction threshold with left ear

	Left ear	Right ear
<b>Pre-operative PTA:</b> (Normal is 20/20)	_____	_____
<b>Speech score:</b>	_____ %	_____ %
<b>Test:</b>	CNC    AZ Bio Quiet	AZ Bio +5    AZ Bio +10

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Next steps to getting a cochlear implant

#### Step 1 Meet with a cochlear implant surgeon

You have met with a Cochlear Implant Specialist who has determined that you are a candidate for a cochlear Implant. Next you will meet with a surgeon who will assess your health status to confirm a cochlear implant is right for you. Typically, the surgeon will order imaging such as MRI or CT to assess the status of the cochlea and inner ear structure. These images can help the team in planning the most appropriate solution for you.

#### Step 2 Obtain insurance approval for a cochlear implant

Your doctor's office will apply for approval of the procedure with your insurance company. Cochlear implants are covered by most private insurance plans, including Medicare and typically Medicaid.\* Your doctor can contact Cochlear Insurance Support for assistance in navigating the insurance approval process or to help with an appeal if the claim is denied.

#### Step 3 Choose the best cochlear implant device for you

You will want to think beyond today and consider what you may want for yourself in the future. You also want to think beyond the product itself and consider how you want to be supported for the rest of your lifetime. It is suggested that you connect with an expert who can help you understand what living with a cochlear implant may be like. You can connect with an expert at [cam-engagement-manager@cochlear.com](mailto:cam-engagement-manager@cochlear.com).

# Cochlear implant device considerations

When choosing a cochlear implant device and company, you will want to consider your lifestyle and what is most important to you. You will probably want to consider how you want to be supported after you have been implanted to help ensure you get the most of your new hearing experience throughout your lifetime. Some things to consider include:



## Device wearing options

Do you prefer an off-the-ear or behind-the-ear solution? Do you want both? What features are important to you?



## Water resistance and waterproof options

Do you want to be able to swim with your sound processor? All manufacturers have waterproof solutions. What type of waterproof solution is best for your lifestyle?



## Smartphone connectivity

Do you want to be able to stream sound, etc. directly from your smartphone to your sound processor without an additional accessory? Do you want to use an app to help monitor your hearing experience? There are streaming solutions offered by each manufacturer. Determine what works best for you.



## Device reliability

Durability and long-term reliability for the external sound processor and internal implant are important considerations. Discuss how each manufacturer reports their reliability with your audiologist.



## Implant preference and hearing performance

Each manufacturer has a portfolio of implants and electrode arrays designed to provide better hearing. You can discuss your surgeon's preference of electrode based on your unique needs.



## Upgradability

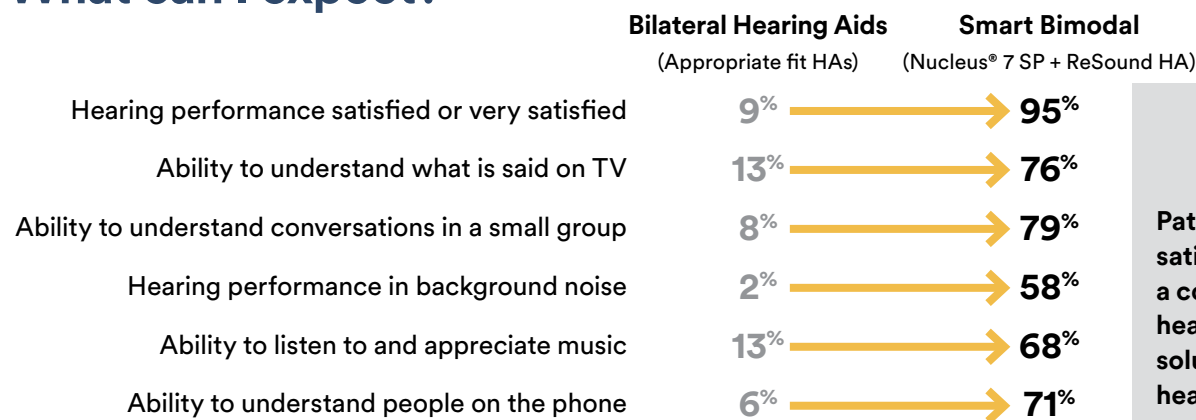
Having access to future technology without the need for additional surgeries may be important to you. Research this access by manufacturer.



## Ongoing service and support

Having fast and helpful service is important throughout your hearing journey with a cochlear implant. How fast is repair service? Do you have to visit your audiologist every time you need help with your device or programming? Can you engage in telehealth? These types of services differ by manufacturer. Determine what is important to you today and into the future.

## What can I expect?



Patients report higher satisfaction from a cochlear implant/hearing aid bimodal solution than from hearing aids alone.<sup>3</sup>

1. Novak MA, Firszt JB, Rotz LA, et al. Cochlear implants in infants and toddlers. *Ann Otol Rhino Laryngol Suppl* 2000;185:46–49.

2. Buchman CA, Herzog JA, McJunkin JL, et al. Assessment of Speech Understanding After Cochlear Implantation in Adult Hearing Aid Users: A Nonrandomized Controlled Trial. *JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. Published online August 27, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamaoto.2020.1584

3. Lupo JE, Biever A, Kelsall DC. Comprehensive hearing aid assessment in adults with bilateral severe-profound sensorineural hearing loss who present for Cochlear implant evaluation. *Am J Otolaryngol*. 2020;41(2):102300. doi:10.1016/j.amjoto.2019.102300

\* Covered for Medicare beneficiaries who meet CMS criteria for coverage. Coverage for adult Medicaid recipients varies according to state specific guidelines.

Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

Views expressed are those of the individual. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology.

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