What to know about a cochlear implant evaluation



What is a cochlear implant evaluation and why is my provider recommending it?

As hearing loss progresses, it's important to have a comprehensive evaluation to determine if an implant could improve how well you hear and understand words.[1]

The evaluation does not commit you to anything — it gives you useful information to make the best choices for your hearing health.

What should I expect at my cochlear implant evaluation?[2]

Review

- Hearing history
- Medical health
- Hearing aid use

Hearing tests

- Without and with hearing aids
- Without and with background noise

Discuss

- Potential implant recommendation
- Implant benefits
- Next steps
- Questions you have

What is a cochlear implant?



Established as a viable treatment option for 40 years,[3] a cochlear implant is a hearing device that sends signals directly to the hearing nerve, making sounds clearer, instead of simply making them louder as a hearing aid does.[1]

How does the cochlear implant procedure work?

It is a low-risk short outpatient procedure under anesthesia, requiring just a small incision behind your ear. In a few days, most people are back to their normal activities. The implant must then be turned on during a follow-up appointment.[1,4]

Can I still use other hearing devices?

You can use a hearing aid in one ear and a cochlear implant in the other.[1]

95% are satisfied with hearing*[5]

83% said their lives improved[6]

77% wish they got implants earlier[7]

*Users with both a hearing aid and a cochlear implant provided feedback compared to hearing aids alone.

See back for references.

Scan the QR code to Find & Connect with a cochlear implant center near you

1. Carlson, M. L. (2020). *Cochlear implantation in adults. New England Journal of Medicine*, 382(16), 1531–1542. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMra1904407
2. Rocky Mountain Ear Centre, P.C. (2022). *Cochlear implant evaluation*. Retrieved March 2026, from https://tinyurl.com/2p9skk9c
3. United Press International Archives. (1984, November). *Title*. Retrieved November 2025, from https://www.upi.com/Archives/1984/11/29/The-Food-and-Drug-Administration-announced-its-approval-Thursday/4730470552400/
4. National Institute of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. (2024, June). *Cochlear implants*. Retrieved March 2026, from https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/cochlear-implants
5. Lupo, J. E., Biever, A., & Kelsall, D. C. (2020). *Comprehensive hearing aid assessment in adults with bilateral severe-profound sensorineural hearing loss who present for cochlear implant evaluation. American Journal of Otolaryngology*, 41(2), 102300. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjoto.2019.102300
6. Ng, Z. Y., Lamb, B., Harrigan, S., Archbold, S., Athalye, S., & Allen, S. (2016). Perspectives of adults with cochlear implants on current CI services and daily life. *Cochlear Implants International*, 17(Suppl 1), 89–93. https://doi.org/10.1080/14670100.2016.1157314
7. Cochlear. (n.d.). *Cochlear internal estimate, recipients data.*

©Cochlear Limited 2026. All rights reserved. For a full list of Cochlear's trademarks, please visit our Terms of Use page. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners. This material is intended for health professionals. If you are a consumer, 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.

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.

FUN5880 ISS2 JUL26