



Steps To Cochlear Implantation:

Formal Cochlear Implant Evaluation - This is conducted over 1-2 one hour appointments with our audiology team. The first session will entail special hearing tests WITH use of hearing aids. This test is designed to make sure you meet FDA guidelines and are indeed a candidate for a cochlear implant. Please bring your hearing aids if you have them.

The second visit - Also with our audiologists, is designed to determine your pre-implant performance and thus track how well you ultimately do with a cochlear implant. At this visit you will also review the various makes/models/types of cochlear implants, decide which type of device best meets your needs, and review any questions you may have.

Note: After either the first or second evaluation visit you will likely have a paired visit the same day with your surgeon to discuss the results of the test(s). If you are a candidate, you may proceed with your pursuit of the cochlear implant at this point with your surgeon. This “gateway” discussion with your surgeon will be aligned with the audiologist visits to the best of our ability to save you time, scheduling, and driving.

Vaccination - The FDA and the cochlear implant companies recommend a vaccination for bacterial meningitis before implant surgery. The chance of meningitis is rare but the vaccine lowers that to essentially non-existent levels. Details of this process may be found on a different form on our website. Vaccinations may be delivered by your primary care doctor, family physician, local pharmacies, or the county health clinics.

Medical Imaging of the Cochlea – A CT or MRI scan may be requested by your surgeon and is typically used to aid in counseling on the best type of device for your hearing loss, as well as predicting hearing outcomes.

Medical Clearances for Surgery – If you have other illnesses, heart and/or lung disease, take a blood thinner, or have other health concerns, your surgeon will request special clearances from your primary care doctor, cardiologist, pulmonologist, or other health specialists to make sure you are healthy enough to undergo surgery.

Insurance authorization – In some cases, our team may need to assist you in obtaining clearance from your insurance company for a cochlear implantation. We will review your plan and discuss next steps during your office visit.

Surgery scheduling – The surgery scheduler paired with your surgeon will contact you when you have completed the above steps to help schedule your procedure date as well as your first post-operative visit (when the implant will be first activated).

At the time of your surgery scheduling, you will also be sent instructions on how to prepare for your surgery date, a list of post-surgical restrictions, and wound care instructions. These documents may also be found on our website.