

Frequently Asked Questions

How do cochlear implants work? How are they different from my hearing aids?

Cochlear implants are different from hearing aids. Rather than amplifying sound like hearing aids, cochlear implants use sophisticated software and state-of-the-art electronic components to provide access to the sounds you've been missing. They are designed to help you hear better and understand speech in all situations, including noisy environments.¹ Consult with a [Hearing Implant Specialist](#) to determine if a cochlear implant is the right solution for your hearing loss.

How do Baha® implants work? How are they different from my hearing aids?

The Baha System uses your natural ability to conduct sound through bone to bypass the damaged outer and middle ear, and sends clearer, more crisp sound directly to your inner ear. A hearing aid tries to push sound through the damaged part of the ear. There are two types of Baha Systems – the [Baha Attract System](#) and the [Baha Connect System](#). Both Baha Systems have three components: the implant, an abutment or magnetic attachment and a sound processor. Consult with a [Hearing Implant Specialist](#) to determine if a Baha implant is the right solution for your hearing loss.

I currently have a clinic that I go to for my hearing aids. Will I need to go to a different clinic for hearing implants?

Unlike hearing aids, hearing implants require the input of both a physician and audiologist who are specifically trained as [Hearing Implant Specialists](#). This may require that you go to a different clinic than you do now for your hearing aids.

How much do hearing implants cost?

The cost of hearing implants may be covered by your insurance plan, Medicare and Medicaid. Unlike hearing aids, hearing implants typically do not need to be replaced every few years. This makes them a longer-term, more cost-effective solution. Please contact your insurance provider or clinic for more information.

Does Medicare cover hearing implants?

Medicare covers hearing implants. Potential costs associated with Medicare will be any coinsurance, copays, and/or deductible as defined by your insurance plan. If you have supplemental insurance, it may cover the additional costs. Please contact your insurance provider or clinic for more information.

Are cochlear implants covered by insurance?

Most private insurance plans cover cochlear implants. Potential costs associated with receiving a cochlear implant will be coinsurance, copay and deductible according to your health plan's benefits. Please contact your insurance provider or clinic for more information. Your insurance provider may be able to look up the particular services by name. If not, they may be able to look up the services in their billing system by code. Provide the following two codes to the representative:

- Surgical: CPT Code 69930
- Cochlear Device: HCPCS Code L6814

How do I know if my health plan will cover my Baha implant?

Many health plans cover Baha implants under a surgical benefit. However, your coverage will be determined by your individual plan's benefits. Please contact your insurance provider or clinic for more information. Your insurance provider may be able to look up the particular services by name. If not, they may be able to look up the services in their billing system by code. Provide the following two codes to the representative:

- Surgical: CPT Code 69714
- Cochlear Device: HCPCS Code L8690

How much will the hearing evaluation cost?

In most cases, Medicare and private insurance plans will cover the evaluation. Medicaid covers hearing services for beneficiaries under age 21, and adults may be covered in some states. The clinic where you receive your hearing evaluation should be able to provide you with the specific information based on your insurance plan.

Is surgery required to get a cochlear implant?

Yes, surgery is typically an outpatient procedure that lasts on average two hours.

Is surgery required to get a Baha System?

Yes, surgery is typically an outpatient procedure that lasts on average less than an hour.

Can I buy a hearing implant? How do I get a hearing implant?

In order to receive a hearing implant, you must first be evaluated by a [Hearing Implant Specialist](#) to determine if you qualify. An audiologist and surgeon who are trained in hearing implants will work together to perform your evaluation, order the device and conduct surgery. [Learn more about the steps to getting a cochlear implant.](#)

I have been to a clinic that told me I qualify for a hearing implant. What are my next steps?

Please contact our Cochlear Concierge team who can talk to you about your next steps. You can reach one of our Concierge team members at 1 (800) 216 0228 or by emailing Concierge@Cochlear.com

1. Hirschfelder A, Gräbel S, Olze H. The impact of cochlear implantation on quality of life: The role of audiologic performance and variables. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2008 Mar;138(3): 357-362.

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