We know that getting a cochlear implant is an important decision that can greatly affect how you live your life and engage with others. We have provided more than 550,000 implantable devices, helping people of all ages to lead full and active lives.

As the leading global expert in implantable hearing solutions, Cochlear is dedicated to bringing the gift of sound to people all over the world. You can count on us to be here for you with our customer support team and resources. We are committed to supporting and providing you a lifetime of better hearing with access to the latest and most advanced future technology.

We understand you may have questions and concerns as you get ready for a life with the Cochlear™ Nucleus® Implant System. As you prepare for surgery and hearing with your Cochlear implant, we would like to guide you through what to expect.
As you anticipate and prepare for your cochlear implant surgery, you may experience a range of emotions. To help you, we would like to ensure you have the information you need to know for surgery.

The cochlear implant procedure is typically a same day, outpatient procedure. The procedure is considered fairly routine and safe, but, as with any surgery, there are risks. Your surgeon and medical team will conduct a pre-surgical examination to ensure you are healthy for the procedure. You should tell your medical team about any medications you are taking and talk to them about concerns you may have. You should also ensure you are up-to-date on appropriate vaccinations.

In addition to talking to your surgeon and medical team about the surgery and what to expect, you may also want to talk to a recipient who has a cochlear implant and can share their experience with you.


**Support Person At the Hospital**
We recommend you have someone at the hospital on the day of surgery to support you and help you to communicate. If you use a hearing aid, there may be times when you are not able to use it. There may also be times when the surgical team members are talking to you with masks covering their mouths, making it difficult if you rely on lip-reading. Your medical team knows you will have difficulty communicating in these situations. Having a support person there can help you to communicate and ease any anxieties you may have as you wait for your procedure.

**Support Getting Home**
You will need someone to drive you home after surgery. We recommend they help get you settled in at home, ensure any prescriptions you may have received are filled, and help you get started on your recovery instructions.

“I honestly consider this (cochlear implant surgery) now a fairly minor operation. It’s outpatient. You come in, have it done and go home the same day.”

Dr. Kelsall – Cochlear implant surgeon
Surgery Day

Surgery day is here. As with any surgery, you will probably be feeling nervous, hopeful and excited. Just remember—cochlear implant surgery is relatively simple.

When you arrive at your surgery center, you will typically register, change into a gown and get prepped for surgery. The surgery usually lasts around two hours per ear, with additional time in the preparation and recovery areas. While you are in surgery, your support person and family can choose to wait in the waiting area.

The Surgery
1. During the operation, a small incision is made behind the ear. A small area of hair may be shaved away from the incision site.
2. The internal device, called the implant, is placed under the skin.
3. A small opening is then made in the mastoid bone, followed by a tiny hole in the cochlea. The electrode array is inserted into the cochlea.
4. The surgical team may test the implant to ensure it is working properly.
5. The surgeon closes the incision and comes out of the operating room to update the family.

Waking Up
After surgery, you will be brought into a recovery room until the anesthesia has worn off. This may take a few hours. As it wears off, you may feel groggy and nauseous from the anesthesia. You may feel some soreness and tenderness from the incision and surgery. Your support person will be allowed to be with you once again.

“I’m going to say it again. The surgery went really, really well. I went home the same day and back to work after a few days. I felt really good.”

Deb A. - Cochlear implant recipient
03 After Surgery

Most people will go home the same day as their surgery. Depending on your medical history and your surgeon's preference, you may stay overnight for observation.

Your head will likely be wrapped in a bandage to protect the incision site. You will be given instructions on how to care for your bandage and incision site, along with medication prescriptions and possible activity restrictions. Once you take the bandage off, you may have some swelling around the incision site and possibly the side of your face. After the incision behind the ear heals and swelling disappears, a slightly raised bump may remain where the implant has been placed. This area is typically covered by hair.

Recovery Time
Recovery from surgery typically occurs relatively quickly. The implant will be turned on once the incision site heals, which is generally after about three to four weeks. Most are back to their normal routine in a couple days and return to work one to two weeks after surgery. Most doctors advise against lifting even moderately heavy weights in the days right after surgery. Your surgeon will make specific recommendations regarding your post-operative care. Your surgeon will likely require you to schedule a post-operation appointment to check on your incision and progress.

Waiting for Activation
You will need to schedule your activation appointment with your audiologist. Typically, your surgeon will require a recovery period of three to four weeks prior to your activation. If you were using two hearing aids prior to surgery, your surgeon may recommend that you continue to use your hearing aid on your non implanted ear. During this time, you may feel anxious and excited as you wait to hear for the first time with your Nucleus Cochlear Implant. As you wait, many find it helpful to connect with others who have been through your same experience.


Activation Day
To help ease anxiety on activation day, be sure to get a good night of sleep and arrive at your appointment on time. At your appointment, your audiologist will walk you through the components of the sound processor and possibly some of the accessories. Your audiologist will also map your sound processor. You will start by listening to a series of beeps and then finally the voices of your audiologist and loved ones with you. Don't worry if you can't hear clearly right away. It can take days or weeks of practice for your brain to adjust and understand the sounds you have been missing. Remember, your new hearing technology does not amplify sound like a hearing aid—it delivers sound in a new way.

As you begin to explore your new world of sound, we're here to provide the tools and resources you may need along the way. We encourage you to create your Cochlear universal login and password in order to access Cochlear related applications, support information and resources for Cochlear Implant recipients.


Hearing Therapy
Over the next few weeks and months, practice and patience will be critical to your hearing progress and success. You will need to practice listening and speaking as much as possible. Please keep in mind that progress may take some time, but persistence and consistency can help a great deal, and we provide resources to help you along the way!

You’re **NOT ALONE** in this Journey...

We're here with you every step of the way. Our Customer Support Services are available to you throughout your entire experience.

Now you are part of the Cochlear Family. Activating your account to the Cochlear Family provides you with personalized benefits that help you get the most from your Cochlear implant. You’ll learn about the latest from Cochlear, get tips from hearing experts, and connect with others to share experiences.


Thank you for trusting your hearing to Cochlear. We are here to support you as you experience a whole new world of sound.

Justin P. - Cochlear Nucleus® recipient
Hear now. And always

As the global leader in implantable hearing solutions, Cochlear is dedicated to helping people with moderate to profound hearing loss experience a life full of hearing. We have provided more than 550,000 implantable devices, helping people of all ages to hear and connect with life’s opportunities.

We aim to give people the best lifelong hearing experience and access to innovative future technologies. We have the industry’s best clinical, research and support networks.

That’s why more people choose Cochlear than any other hearing implant company.