

As your patient's partner, Cochlear believes it is important to convey not only the benefits, but also the potential risks associated with a Cochlear Vistafix procedure.

Vistafix is contraindicated in patients with inadequate bone quality or quantity to provide stability and support for the implant, or in patients who will be unable to maintain and clean the skin around the abutment. In the U.S. and Canada, use of the implanted fixture is also contraindicated in children under age five years.

All surgical procedures include an element of risk, and it is impossible to guarantee success. The device may fail to osseointegrate for a number of reasons, including physiological and surgical issues as well as traumatic impact to the implant site. On rare occasions the skin around the abutment may become inflamed from a mild infection or the skin may grow back towards its original thickness. For complete information regarding the risks and benefits of a Vistafix procedure, please refer to the Instructions for use for the Vistafix implant available at [www.CochlearAmericas.com/VistafixIndications](http://www.CochlearAmericas.com/VistafixIndications)

[www.CochlearAmericas.com](http://www.CochlearAmericas.com)

Cochlear Americas  
13059 East Peakview Avenue  
Centennial, CO 80111 USA

Telephone: 1 303 790 9010  
Support: 1 800 483 3123  
Web Chat: [www.CochlearAmericas.com](http://www.CochlearAmericas.com)

Cochlear Canada Inc  
2500-120 Adelaide Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 1T1 Canada

Telephone: 1 416 972 5082  
Fax: 1 416 972 5083

©2012 Cochlear Limited. All rights reserved. Trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of Cochlear Limited or Cochlear Bone Anchored Solutions.

VFX007 ISS1 JUN12

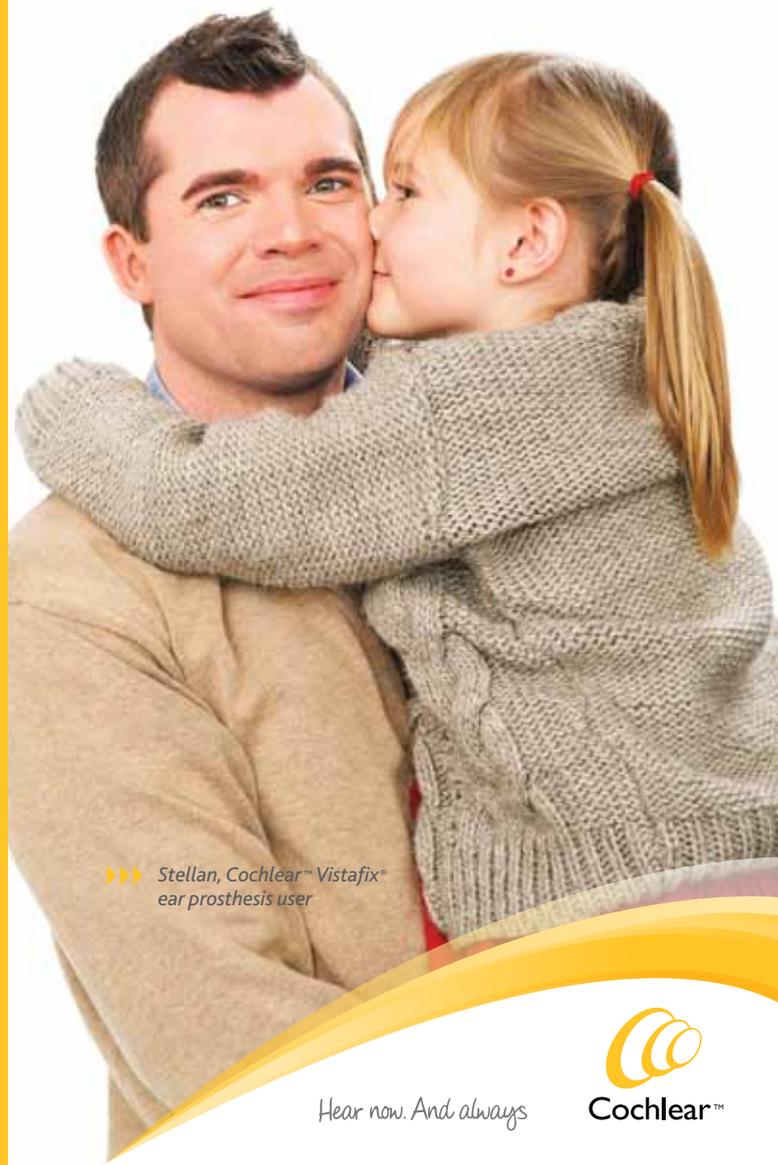


Cochlear™  
**Vistafix**®

FOR CANDIDATES

A BONE ANCHORED FACIAL PROSTHETIC SOLUTION

## Post-surgery care



▶▶▶ *Stellan, Cochlear™ Vistafix®  
ear prosthesis user*

Hear now. And always



## Care of the abutment area

Good hygiene around the Vistafix abutments is critical to maintaining normal usage of your prosthesis. The average lifetime of prostheses is about 18 months, but if you take good care of the prosthesis, it can last two years or longer.

### AFTER SURGERY

For the best results, you need to take care of the abutments or plastic healing caps to avoid any complications with the surrounding tissue. If the area has adequately healed, the dressing and stitches will be removed about 7-10 days after surgery. If not, the dressing may have to stay in place longer.



It is important to maintain good daily hygiene. For the first few weeks after the dressing has been removed, moisten the tissue around each abutment by using a wet cotton-tipped applicator moistened with either saline or warm water.

### DAILY CLEANING

After the first few weeks, you can start cleaning around the outside of the abutments with the soft abutment cleaning brush (provided by the clinic) or non-alcohol wipes (such as baby wipes), to avoid debris build up. Aim the bristles of the brush at the side of the abutments and remove any debris that may have built up around the base. You can do this while taking a shower using a mild soap and plenty of warm water. Periodically, you can use a 50/50 solution of hydrogen peroxide and water to assist in this process.



If you have a bar and clip connection, slide a wet cotton tipped applicator under the bar and around the abutments to remove any skin debris that has accumulated.

If the tissue ever looks inflamed, red or sore, consult with your physician.

## Remember

*Always rinse the abutment cleaning brush in mild soap and warm water and let it air dry. Change the brush every three months, or if you have had an infection.*

*If you have bilateral implants, use two separate cleaning brushes (one for each side), to avoid cross-contamination.*

## Care of Your Prosthesis

### DAILY CARE\*

The prosthesis should be cleaned regularly by gently brushing with soap and water. Do not use abrasive cleansers or bleach on your prosthesis. Pay careful attention to the thin margins to avoid tearing or damaging the edges of the prosthesis.



Scrub the retention mechanisms (gold clips or magnets) using a brush and soap lather. Gently rub the front side of the prosthesis using your fingers and a small amount of soap lather. Special care should be taken when cleaning an orbital prosthesis to avoid damaging the eyelashes or brow. Rinse the prosthesis with warm water and pat dry with a cloth or a piece of gauze.

### WEARING YOUR PROSTHESIS

The prosthesis can be worn for all normal activities including swimming and sports. It may be advisable to remove it and wear some protection, for example a headband, over the bar if you take part in contact sports. The prosthesis should be removed when sleeping.

### STORAGE OF YOUR PROSTHESIS

Store your prosthesis in a clean, dry container with ventilation. Place your prosthesis in the container with the back side up. This will help to keep thin edges of the prosthesis from curling up. Avoid placing it in direct sunlight or extreme heat.

### HAIR CARE

If you wish to have your hair permed or colored, remove the prosthesis and protect the abutments with a small amount of cotton wool and cling film secured with a small elastic band. This will prevent the solution or dye irritating the tissue around the abutment. The hair should not be permed or colored until the surgical site is fully healed.

### PROSTHESIS FOLLOW UP CARE

In the early stages following the fitting of your prosthesis, you should have regular visits with your outpatient clinic to ensure that your prosthesis, abutments and retention mechanism are all performing properly.

\* Please consult with your anaplastologist or physician for specific recommendations on daily care for your prosthesis.

*You can get new cleaning brushes from your clinic or by contacting Cochlear customer service at:  
1 800 483 3123*