

PACIFIC NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE ADULT COCHLEAR IMPLANT EVALUATION PROCESS: BRIEF OVERVIEW

There are a variety of factors to consider when determining if someone is a candidate for a cochlear implant. The purpose of the cochlear implant evaluation is to obtain information to determine cochlear implant candidacy including comprehensive evaluation of hearing status (with and without hearing aids), medical history, goals/expectations, motivation and commitment to follow-ups and aural rehabilitation. During these appointments you will also learn about the auditory system, hearing loss, differences between hearing aids and cochlear implants and other information you need to make an informed decision.

INITIAL AUDIOGRAM

- ▶ Typically, you will first be seen for a diagnostic audiogram to determine if you should proceed with a cochlear implant evaluation based on your hearing loss.
- ▶ If the audiologist thinks you may want to consider a cochlear implant, they will recommend you proceed with a comprehensive cochlear implant evaluation.

MEDICAL EVALUATION BY A PHYSICIAN/SURGEON (OTOLOGIST)

- ▶ During this appointment you will be evaluated by Dr. Voelker to determine if you are medically a candidate for a cochlear implant.
- ▶ CT/MRI scans will be ordered to evaluate the status of your inner ear structures.
- ▶ She may also request clearance from other physicians depending on your current health needs (i.e., cardiology).
- ▶ Discuss the cochlear implant surgery and surgical risks.
- ▶ Discuss meningitis vaccinations required prior to surgery to prevent the risk of meningitis.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT EVALUATION (AUDIOLOGIST)

- ▶ During this appointment, the audiologist will obtain a comprehensive case history (if not yet completed) and your hearing status will be evaluated while wearing your hearing aids to assess your benefit from amplification.
- ▶ This testing involves you responding to tones and repeating back words and sentences. Your scores will determine if you meet CI candidacy criteria. Criteria is based on FDA and insurance guidelines. Cochlear Implant candidacy has greatly expanded over the past several years with the inclusion of hybrid cochlear implants, asymmetric hearing loss and single sided deafness.
- ▶ Manufacturer specific information and clinic brochures will be provided to you.
- ▶ During this appointment, the audiologist will discuss how cochlear implants work (internal and external components), your goals and expectations following cochlear implantation, follow-up appointments needed, aural rehabilitation, realistic expectations with a cochlear implant and answer any questions you may have about the cochlear implantation process.
- ▶ We will set up a touch point with our Cochlear Implant Manufacturer Partners to discuss specific equipment including device selection, accessories and the completion of the order form, if you choose to proceed with a cochlear implant.
- ▶ Our team can connect you with support groups and/or other cochlear implant recipients as well.

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VESTIBULAR EVALUATION

- ▶ If you have a history of dizziness/vertigo or over **70** years old, it may be recommended you have your vestibular function assessed. While balance testing does not typically prevent someone from receiving a cochlear implant, it can provide information about which ear should be implanted.

REVIEW OF CT/MRI SCANS

- ▶ You may be seen for an additional medical appointment depending on scheduling to discuss your CT/MRI scans and answer any further questions you have regarding the surgery and surgical risks.

SCHEDULING OF CI SURGERY

- ▶ You will be contacted by the surgery scheduler to schedule cochlear implant surgery and activation appointments with your audiologist following the completion of the above visits.

If you are not determined to be a candidate in our program, we will explain our rationale/thinking in detail and make recommendations regarding other options for amplification and hearing care. Patients may choose to re-evaluate their candidacy in **6** months or later on.