The Cochlear Implant Candidacy Evaluation

Our cochlear implant program uses a multi-step process to determine cochlear implant candidacy. Families seeking a cochlear implant for their child must understand the significance of this type of intervention. Because a child must learn to understand the sounds that he or she hears through the implant (a process that can take years), the cochlear implant candidacy evaluation is thorough. This is done not only to ensure that the child is an appropriate candidate, but also to ensure that appropriate long-term follow up and an appropriate educational environment are in place.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT CANDIDACY EVALUATION

Audiologic Evaluations: Pediatric Audiologist

Comprehensive Hearing Test
• To determine the type and degree of hearing loss
Cochlear Implant Evaluation (Testing is performed with hearing aids)
• To determine if the child meets audiologic criteria for cochlear implantation
• To address concerns about hearing loss and goals for improving communication
• To discuss the benefits and limitations of cochlear implants as they relate to each individual
Children’s Implant Profile (ChIP) Candidacy Assessment
• To identify concerns and establish therapeutic goals for achieving the best possible outcome with a cochlear implant

Speech & Language Evaluation: Speech-Language Pathologist

Listening & Spoken Language Specialist

Speech-Language Testing (Testing is performed with hearing aids)
• To access current receptive and expressive language, as well as speech production skills
• Before this evaluation can be scheduled, you must complete and return the speech intake packet
ChIP Candidacy Assessment

Parent Support
• To provide information regarding group support services
• Psychosocial evaluation if recommended
• Assess realistic expectations
• ChIP Candidacy Assessment
**Educational Consultation**
- To assist in establishing a successful academic career
- To ensure an optimal listening environment in the classroom
- Establish a cooperative partnership between the child’s school personnel and our implant team to meet the child’s needs
- Establish a cooperative partnership with the child’s Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and/or Auditory Impairment (AI) specialists
- ChIP Candidacy Assessment

**Medical Evaluation: Cochlear Implant Surgeon**
- To determine health status and ability to undergo surgery
- To rule out medical contraindications

**CT Scan/MRI: Cochlear Implant Surgeon**
- To evaluate the ear’s internal structures
- To recommend which ear to implant
- May provide information as to the cause of hearing loss

**Cochlear Implant Team Meeting**
- We will review the factors from the ChIP Candidacy Assessment which important for successful cochlear implant use
- Recommendations are made in favor of or against cochlear implantation
- CI team meetings are held once a month.

**Cochlear Implant Counseling**
- We will discuss with the family the Cochlear Implant Team’s recommendations
- Parents will be provided with a written report stating the Team’s concerns and/or recommendations
- If a cochlear implant is recommended, the family will be provided information regarding the surgery and expectations

**Cochlear Implant Device Selection**
- The family will meet with their managing audiologist to discuss the different cochlear implant manufacturers (Advanced Bionics and Cochlear) which will include information on: internal and external devices; sound processing strategies; sound processor features; and sound processor accessories.

**Cochlear Implant Insurance Pre-Authorization**
- Your insurance company must approve cochlear implantation for your child
- This is initiated through the cochlear implant surgeon’s office