

Patient Information: Hearing Implant Assessment

Your hearing implant assessment is an opportunity for us to learn more about your hearing difficulties and discuss whether a hearing implant may be a suitable option for you.

The assessment is usually carried out by members of our Hearing Implant Team, which may include Audiologists and/or ENT consultants.

How long will the appointment be?

Assessment appointments are often longer than routine audiology appointments and may last between 1 and 1.5 hours, depending on the tests required.

In some cases, more than one appointment may be needed before a decision can be made.

What to expect during the appointment

The assessment is tailored to your needs, but may include:

Discussion about your hearing

We will ask about: Your hearing difficulties and communication needs, your hearing aid use and previous hearing treatments, your medical history, the impact hearing loss has on your daily life.

This is an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Hearing tests

We may carry out a range of hearing assessments, including: Pure tone hearing tests, Speech understanding tests, Hearing aid verification and performance checks.

These tests help us understand how well you hear with and without your current hearing devices.

Information about hearing implants

If appropriate, we will explain: The different types of hearing implants available, how they work, the potential benefits and limitations, the surgical procedure involved, and rehabilitation and follow-up required after implantation.

We will ensure you have enough information to make an informed decision about your care.

Should I bring anything with me?

Please bring your hearing aids and any accessories you use, details of any relevant medical information, your glasses if you wear them.

You may also want to bring a family member, friend, or carer if you would find this helpful. Having someone with you can be useful when discussing treatment options and making decisions about your care.

Trial of a hearing implant device

As part of your assessment, you may be offered the opportunity to trial a hearing implant sound processor or demonstration device.

The device is worn externally and allows you to experience how a hearing implant may sound and whether it could improve your hearing in everyday situations. The type of device used will depend on the hearing implant being considered and your individual hearing needs.

We will show you how to use the device and may ask you to wear it for several weeks. During this time, we encourage you to use it in a variety of listening situations, such as:

- Conversations with family and friends
- Watching television
- Telephone calls
- Work or social activities
- Noisy environments

At the end of the trial period, you will return for a follow-up appointment to discuss your experiences. We may ask about the benefits you noticed, any difficulties you experienced, and how the device compared with your current hearing aids.

The information gathered during the trial helps you and the Hearing Implant Team decide whether a hearing implant is likely to be beneficial for you.

What happens after the assessment?

After your assessment, the Hearing Implant Team will review the information gathered and discuss the most appropriate recommendations.

Possible outcomes include:

- Continuing with your current hearing aids.
- Adjustments or changes to your hearing aid management.
- Further investigations or assessments.
- Recommendation for a hearing implant

If a hearing implant is recommended, we will explain the next steps, including any additional appointments, imaging scans, surgical consultations, and ongoing support