

Adult Cochlear Implant Evaluation Information

Cochlear Implant Evaluation Part 1: This visit with the audiologist lasts about 2 hours, and involves extensive sound booth testing with and without hearing aids. The audiologist uses this information combined with your hearing loss history to determine if you meet insurance and FDA criteria for cochlear implantation

Cochlear Implant Evaluation Part 2: If you qualify for implantation, you will have another visit with the audiologist which also lasts about 2 hours. During this visit the audiologist will discuss previous test results, the surgical procedure and its risks and benefits, show you demonstration devices, and help you choose the cochlear implant device you prefer.

Immunizations: You will be required to receive 2 immunizations against meningitis prior to surgery. These are commonly called Pneumovax and Prevnar. Depending on your age & health status, it is possible you may have already received one or both of these. If so, you will be asked to obtain proof of these immunizations to provide to our office. If you have not had one or either of these, you will be provided a prescription. The immunizations should be given at least 8 weeks apart and prior to surgery. They can be obtained at your primary care doctor's office, at MD 360 on Verdae Blvd. in Greenville, or at the many retail pharmacies that administer these immunizations.

The purpose of these immunizations is to prevent the common bacteria that enter through the ear from causing infection, and guard against meningitis.

CT scan or MRI: Specific radiologic imaging is required of all patients, and is done before cochlear implant surgery to evaluate inner ear anatomy and rule out any brain conditions. The CT scan lasts about 30 minutes and the MRI lasts about 45 minutes.

Medical Evaluation: At this visit you will meet Dr. Rampey, our implant surgeon. He will review the testing performed in steps 1 and 2, the CT or MRI scan, discuss your medical history, explain the surgery, and answer your questions. If he agrees that you would benefit from a cochlear implant, your surgery will be scheduled.

Once your surgery is scheduled, our office will seek approval from your insurance company depending on the provider. This process may take several weeks.

Pre-Assessment: The facility where your surgery will be performed will call you regarding the pre-assessment. You may be asked to have an EKG, a chest x-ray, and bloodwork. Not everyone will need these all tests, and it will depend on your medical history, age, and if any of these tests have been performed recently. The pre-assessment nurse will discuss your medical and anesthesia history, and may listen to your heart and lungs. While you will have a date for surgery, you will likely not have a specific time for the surgery until the day or evening before the surgery.

Surgery: On the day of surgery you will be asked to arrive about an hour before the surgery begins. You will be under anesthesia about 3 hours. After surgery you will be in the recovery

area for about 3 to 4 hours and will be allowed to go home after awakening fully. Someone will need to drive you home.

Post-Operative Visit with MD: About 1 week after your surgery, you will have an office visit to follow up with Dr. Rampey. He will evaluate the surgical site and take off any remaining dressing. Your cochlear implant will still not be operational at this stage.

Initial Stimulation: Four weeks after surgery, your cochlear implant will be turned on during an initial programming session. This visit with the audiologist will last about 2 hours as there are many new things to learn. The external processor is hooked up to a computer with programming software. You will participate in programming tasks to evaluate first settings. This is the first step in your journey to greater hearing.

Follow up visit with MD: This is an optional visit with your doctor after the initial stimulation of your cochlear device. This visit will last about 10 or 15 minutes, and is to see how you are progressing with your new cochlear implant.

Programming: During each visit with the audiologist after your device is turned on, programming will be performed. These visits are interactive sessions with the audiologist to fine-tune and personalize the device to your needs. The schedule is approximately as follows:

- 2 weeks after initial stimulation
- 4 weeks after initial stimulation
- 3 months after initial stimulation
- 6 months after initial stimulation
- 12 months after initial stimulation

While this is a general outline of times, more visits may be needed based on your needs. The schedule is personalized for you.