



COCHLEAR IMPLANT

Cochlear implants can restore hearing in people with severe hearing loss who are no longer helped by using hearing aids. Cochlear implants can improve their communication and quality of life.

Cochlear implant surgery is generally safe. Risks of cochlear implantation can include:

- **Loss of residual hearing.** Implantation of the device can cause a loss of any remaining, unclear, natural hearing in the implanted ear in some people.
- **Inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) after cochlear implant surgery.** Vaccinations to reduce the risk of meningitis are generally given to adults and children before implantation.
- **Failure of device.** Surgery may sometimes be needed to repair or replace a faulty internal device.

Complications are rare and can include bleeding, facial paralysis, infection at the surgery site, device infection, balance problems, dizziness, taste changes, new or worsened ear noise, and spinal fluid leak.

The device is typically activated several weeks after surgery. This allows time for surgical healing. You will then begin working with the audiologist regularly.

Post-op Instructions

1. Remove outer cup dressing in 48 hours. When the cup comes off, remove the underlying cotton ball.
2. Steristrips/Skin glue behind the ear typically fall off in 10-14 days; if not, the patient/caregiver may peel off at 2 weeks.
3. Take pain medication as needed – typically, Motrin or Tylenol is sufficient.
4. No lifting objects heavier than 5 lbs for 2 weeks. Light activity is recommended, with no strenuous/vigorous activity until the follow-up appointment. No swimming.
5. It is normal for the ear to protrude a bit for 1-2 months after surgery. It is normal to have some drainage from either the ear canal or the incision after surgery.

Please contact our office at 478-743-8953 if you have any questions or concerns.