



**SCOTTISH
COCHLEAR IMPLANT
PROGRAMME**

Cochlear Implant Assessment

**Welcome pack
(children aged 0-3 years)**

Information about your
child's appointment



Child Assessment

Key Facts:

- If you or your child need an interpreter, please tell us before your appointment so we can book one.
- You may have more than one appointment for your child.
- The first appointment may take 2-3 hours.

Before the appointment:

- Before the first appointment, a Rehab (Rehabilitation) Advisor will contact you. They will explain the next steps and answer any questions you have.
- Please fill in the attached questionnaire. It is very important that you return this by post before your appointment or bring it with you on the day.
- It is very important that you bring your child's hearing aids to every appointment.



Parent Information Session

Parent information session (online)

You will be invited to an online information session to find out more about cochlear implants. You can do this at any stage of your cochlear implant assessment journey. This meeting is a chance to ask any questions about cochlear implants and the assessment process. You will be able to see a Cochlear Implant and meet other families who have also been referred. Your Rehab Advisor will book you on to a session during your initial phone call.

First Appointment

At your first appointment, you will meet your Rehab Advisor and one of our Audiologists. The professionals will work together with you and your child to complete different activities and assessments. If your child is awake and alert when you arrive we may start the hearing checks quickly while they have good attention. We can then chat through the tests once we are finished.

Audiology

(about 1 hour 30mins)

We will look in your child's ears and put a soft tip in the ear to carry out short automated tests.



Next, we will carry out a hearing test. There are different ways to test children's hearing depending on their age and stage of development.

Behavioural Hearing Tests

The audiologist may use one type of test or a few different types to test your child's hearing.

VRA (Visual Response Audiometry)

This type of hearing test may involve a game where we teach your child to turn to puppets in response to a sound or vibration.

The child is usually asked to sit in a chair or on a caregiver's knee. To complete this type of game, a child would ideally have: head control, be able to shift their attention, focus on an object, be beginning to track items or follow a point.

You can practice at home by placing a light up toy to the side of your child. Switch it on every time you make a loud noise e.g. 'gooooooo' and point to the toy to help draw your child's attention towards it.



Conditioned Play Audiometry

This type of hearing test may involve games where we teach your child to wait and listen. They are asked to take a turn in the game if they hear a sound.



The child is usually asked to sit in a chair at the table. We will use this type of game when your child is able to be able to wait, enjoys anticipation games and have early turn taking skills.

You can practice at home by playing 'ready steady go' games, building up waiting skills during anticipation games e.g. letting go of a balloon or practicing turn taking e.g. building a tower one brick at a time.

Your audiologist and Rehab Advisor will talk you through the tests on the day. They may use one or more different types of games during testing.

If your child has any physical, cognitive or developmental difficulties, we will work with you and will adapt our methods to suit your child's needs. This is something you can talk to your Rehab Advisor about when they call you.



Rehab (about 1 hour)

Parent Checklists

Your Rehab Advisor will help you complete different questionnaires and rating scales about your child's hearing. Have a chat with your family about what things your child can and cannot hear before coming along to the appointment.

Language Assessment

Your Rehab Advisor will complete a language assessment called The Pre School Language Scales. This looks at your child's early development, their nonverbal skills, their understanding of speech and their expressive spoken communication. For very young children, this will mostly be completed through observation and a chat with parents. For slightly older children this will be completed by playing with your child.

Functional Listening

The Ling Sounds are sometimes used to help us understand what speech sounds your child can hear. If you haven't heard of these yet, there is a handout on our website.

At the end of the first appointment, the clinicians will discuss the results with you and agree a plan of what should happen next. A short report will be posted or emailed to you.

Depending on the results further visits may be arranged, either because it has not been possible to complete the tests, or because we feel different or more tests are needed.

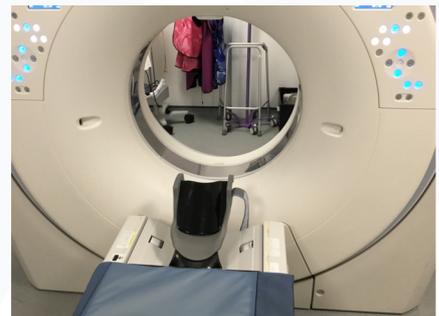
Additional Tests

If more tests are needed they will be discussed with you before they are booked. They may include:

Scans

We may carry out an MRI or CT scan. This checks the shape of the inner ear and the appearance of the hearing nerve to decide whether cochlear implant surgery would be suitable.

For small children this is usually done under general anaesthetic.





Auditory Brainstem Response

We will measure the electrical activity of the hearing pathway. This test is painless. Small sticky pads are put on the head and sounds are played through earphones. A computer measures the response from the hearing pathway. For small children this is usually completed under general anaesthetic.

Outcome

Once we have completed the assessment, and have all the results back, we review the results as a team. After the team has discussed the results we will contact you with our recommendation.

If we offer cochlear implants, and if you would like to go ahead, you will be invited to an online meeting to meet a Surgeon and a member of the management team to ask any questions. There are forms to sign and your child will be added to the waiting list. We aim to carry out the surgery within 12 weeks.



Extra Support

We understand that every child and family is different. We have a range of resources to help you and your child have a positive assessment experience. Speak to your Rehab Advisor to talk through what support could be available such as:

- Social Stories
- Sensory preferences
- More time/ information
- Working with your local professionals

Additional Information

Getting to Crosshouse Hospital

For information about travel to Crosshouse Hospital, please visit www.nhs.uk/services/hospitals/university-hospital-crosshouse/

Car Parking

Free car parking is available however the car park gets very busy! Please give yourself extra time so you can find a space.



Additional Information

Finding the Cochlear Implant department

We are on the ground floor of Crosshouse Hospital. Follow signs for the Cochlear Implant Department (not Audiology). As you enter the main door of the hospital, turn left and then right (you pass the shop, then a café). You will get to a corridor that looks like a picture gallery. We are on the left side of this corridor. There is a sign at the door - 'Raj Singh Cochlear Implant Unit'.

On Site Facilities

- Disabled toilet and baby changing (within the CI department).
- Cafe
- Shop
- Canteen

Travel expenses

You may be entitled to help with travel costs for your appointments. Please contact us before your appointment if you would like more information. Please keep your appointment letter and any travel tickets/receipts if you plan to apply for reimbursement of travel costs.

Accommodation

If you need to travel a long way to reach Crosshouse we may be able to provide hotel accommodation. Please contact us to find out more about this.



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Contact Us

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