

Making connections.  
Self-funded  
Cochlear Implant  
Service



At USAIS, we know how big an impact hearing loss has on all aspects of life. Cochlear implants can make a huge difference for those with severe to profound hearing loss, but we recognise that current NHS funding guidelines do not allow everybody who could benefit from cochlear implants to receive this treatment.

We provide a service for adults who could benefit from cochlear implantation but are not eligible for NHS funding. Some people struggle for years trying to manage with gradually deteriorating hearing and little benefit from hearing aids. At USAIS, we feel that you should be able to access cochlear implant technology as soon as it would be of benefit to you.

#### **What is a cochlear implant?**

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that can help people with severe to profound hearing loss who receive limited or no benefit from conventional hearing aids.

It has two parts – an internal component which is placed in the inner ear under general anaesthetic, and an outside part which is worn behind the ear.



Cochlear implant internal component



Examples of some of the different types of processors (external part)

#### **Our self-funded service**

At USAIS, we have been providing cochlear implants for patients with a hearing loss for more than 25 years. Our multi-disciplinary service has a world-wide reputation for excellence.

Our self-funded service runs parallel to and mirrors our NHS service, and in addition offers a choice between different rehabilitation packages, to best suit your needs and lifestyle.

#### **Who is the service for?**

Potential candidates include adults, living in the UK, who:

- Have a severe to profound hearing loss in both ears and receive no or limited benefit from conventional hearing aids and do not currently have a cochlear implant
- Have one implant at our service and are interested in a second implant for the other ear

We are not currently offering a service for children or for other categories of adults who might benefit from self-funded implantation, but plan to do so in the future.

**It's a beautiful world – it's full of sound. Life is better when you can hear**



“Having my implant has given me access again to the hearing world... It has been a tremendous journey. Thanks to the patient and friendly team at the USAIS, life is back on track for me, my wife and our family”

### What can I expect from an implant?

People with cochlear implants can benefit from some or all of the following:

- Ability to hear and identify environmental sounds
- Improved lip-reading
- Understanding of speech without lip-reading
- Potential to use the telephone
- Increased confidence and independence in communication with friends, family and work colleagues.

There are a number of factors that can influence the outcome, including things like the cause of deafness, duration of deafness, hearing aid use and any cochlear/ear abnormalities or other concerns. These are all aspects that are considered as part of the assessment process.

Our dedicated multi-disciplinary team comprises of ENT Consultants, Audiological Scientists, Specialist Speech and Language Therapists, Hearing Therapists and Psychologists.

### What can I expect from a second implant?

People who have received a second implant report that the change is ‘not as dramatic’ as for their first implant. The second implant can help with:

- Locating where sound is coming from
- Hearing a bit better in noisier environments
- Finding it easier to hear when someone talks on the non-implanted side
- Reducing strain in daily listening
- A sense of hearing being more ‘balanced’

### For more information

Please visit our website: [ais.southampton.ac.uk](http://ais.southampton.ac.uk)

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