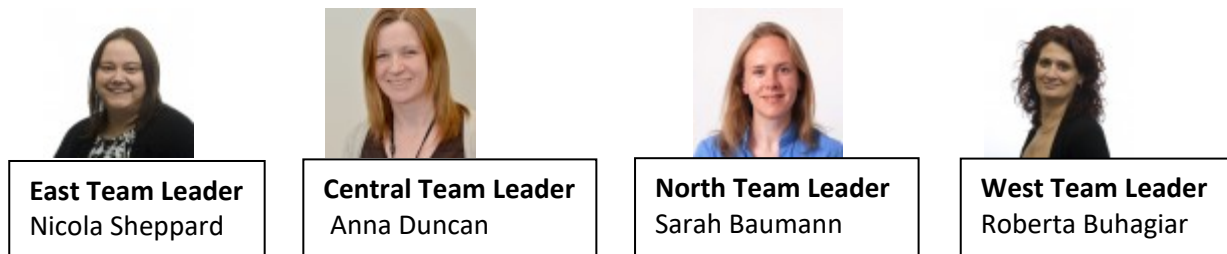


Introduction to your assessment at the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service (USAIS)

USAIS is made up of 4 teams based on where patients live (East, Central, North, West). Each team has a **Team Leader** who will be the main point of contact for adult patients. Paediatric patients have a rehabilitationist who is assigned as their key contact.



The assessment process is for the team to ensure that there is a better chance of a cochlear implant giving you better access to sound than your hearing aid/s presently give you. It is also a good time for you to understand more how it works and what it can offer you so that you are able to decide if this is something that you wish to have.

Appointments

Your appointments will be at the University of Southampton, **except for the CT/MRI scans, the fitness for surgery appointment and your operation.** These appointments will be at one of these hospitals (you will not be able to choose which hospital to go to):

Southampton
General Hospital

Queen Alexandra
Hospital, Cosham

Nuffield Hospital,
Chandlers Ford

Salisbury District
Hospital

Spire Hospital,
Portsmouth

Spire Hospital,
Southampton

Suitability for a cochlear implant

- ✓ Bilateral profound sensori-neural hearing loss
- ✓ Little benefit from hearing aids
- ✓ Medically fit for surgery

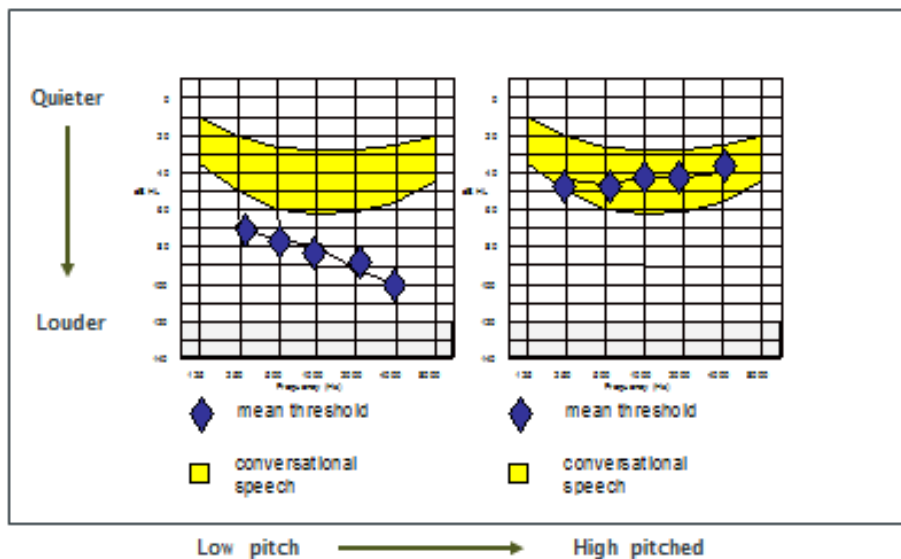
Adults are only able to have **one cochlear implant** unless they are severely visually impaired. You would still be able to wear your hearing aid on the non-implanted side if you usually wear 2 hearing aids.



Patients under the age of 19 years are able to have **cochlear implants in both ears.**



Hearing levels of implanted patients



The above audiograms show average hearing levels pre-implantation (with hearing aids) on the left and post implantation with the implant on the right. The implant gives access to speech sounds (the yellow area). 7

Appointments after surgery

- The speech processor will be fitted about 4-5 weeks after your surgery
- There will be a number of appointments that you will need to attend to allow us to change the settings of the speech processor as your brain gets used to the new sound
 - We can give you a letter of support for your employer if they need to have some information to allow you time off work
- You may lose the residual hearing in your implanted ear so you will not be able to use the hearing aid on that side

Tinnitus

- Most cochlear implant patients experience a reduction in tinnitus after speech processor fitting
- Some cochlear implant patients experience a temporary increase in tinnitus between cochlear implant surgery and speech processor fitting (usually about 4 weeks)
- Tinnitus can be exacerbated in a small number of cochlear implant patients. We will be able to arrange appointments to help you deal with any tinnitus that you experience
- Do ask a member of staff if you wish to discuss tinnitus and cochlear implantation further

Self-funded Cochlear Implants

We recognise that the NHS NICE criteria are strict when compared to criteria around the world and that there are adults who could benefit from cochlear implantation but are not eligible for NHS funding.

Our self-funded service runs parallel to and mirrors our NHS service. The **Team Leader** will be your main point of contact, liaising closely with other members of the USAIS team.



Self-funded Team Leader
Nicci Campbell



“Having my implant has given me access again to the hearing world... It has been a tremendous journey...life is back on track”

Suitability for a self-funded cochlear implant

- ✓ Adults living in the United Kingdom
- ✓ Severe to profound hearing loss but do not meet NHS criteria
- ✓ Already have one implant at USAIS and are interested in a second implant for the other ear

In the future we hope to extend this service to children and other categories of adults.