



South Tees Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme

Paediatric Assessment
Information

Patient / Carer Information

Planned Care Centre
Audiology Department

Welcome to the North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme

Now that your child has been referred to the North East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme, they will need to undergo a range of assessments in order to determine if cochlear implants would be a suitable option for them.

So what happens now?

You will be contacted by your implant keyworker. They will be a teacher of the deaf or a speech and language therapist. They will also contact the local teacher of the deaf who already visits you. You will also receive a number of appointments by post. The appointments will be at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough or at other venues in the north east region.

Your child will be seen by a consultant ENT surgeon, an audiologist, a teacher of the deaf and a speech therapist who all specialise in working with cochlear implants. Some appointments will be at the hospital or audiology clinic and some at your home or at your child's school or nursery. Your child will need an MRI and/or CT scan as well.

Your child will already have hearing aids before they are referred to the cochlear implant team. They need to be wearing their hearing aids all the time for at least three months before the audiologist can decide whether or not hearing aids or cochlear implants will help your child to hear enough to hopefully learn to speak.

If your child is not wearing their hearing aids very much it will hold up the assessment process. We need to be sure if your child had cochlear implants they would keep them on their ears and that you would try hard to help them do that as well.

What do we want to find out during the assessment process?

The audiologist on the cochlear implant team wants to find out what your child can hear in each ear without their hearing aids. Some of the tests they do will have been done by the audiologist in your local hospital but it is important that the cochlear implant audiologist repeats these tests because they have to make the decision about whether a cochlear implant will benefit your child.

The surgeon wants to check your child is medically suitable for the operation and that includes checking that the cochlea and auditory nerve are suitable which is why your child has to have scans.

The team also want to be sure that families have realistic expectations about what is going to happen when their child has cochlear implants and that they are keen to help them make the best progress.

Medical

- Medical history
- CT / MRI scans
- Surgical procedure/ risks
- Ask questions

Audiology

- History of hearing loss
- Hearing tests
- Balance test (as needed)
- Hearing aid check

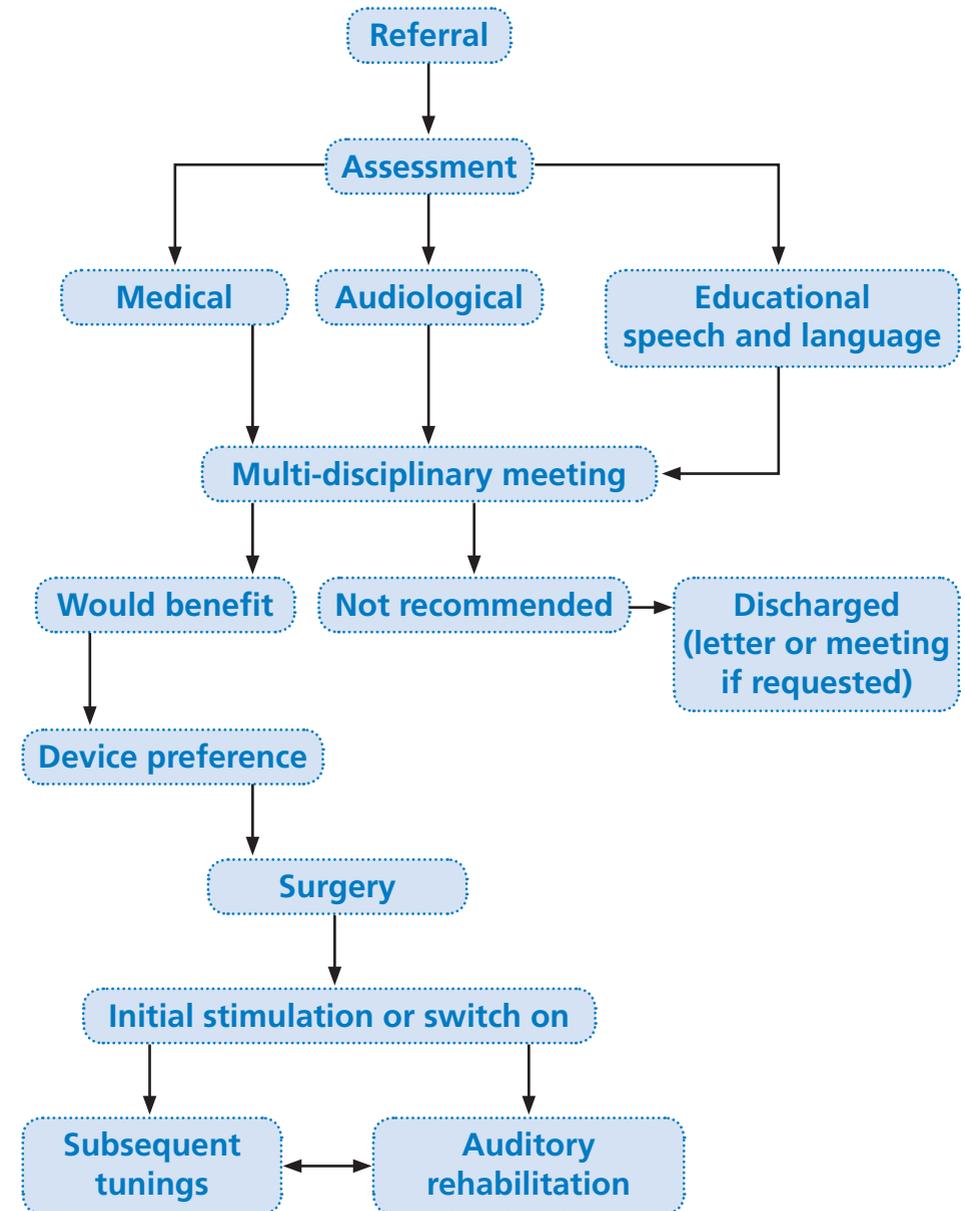
Language and Education

- Talk about procedure
- Look at device
- Meet other parents and children
- Assess language

Assessment complete - what next?

Once we have gathered all the information and test results, we will discuss them at our monthly team meeting. A decision will be made as to whether your child would benefit from cochlear implants, and you will then be informed. If your child would benefit, you will be sent a date for the operation with an appointment for a pre-assessment. You will also receive an appointment to see the surgeon to discuss the operation and sign a consent form. You will have an appointment to discuss the processors and accessories and to make a colour preference.

You are advised that the venues for appointments pre and post cochlear implant may change and we do use venues throughout the north east region.



Comments, compliments, concerns or complaints

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is concerned about the quality of care you receive and strives to maintain high standards of health care.

However we do appreciate that there may be an occasion where you, or your family, feel dissatisfied with the standard of service you receive. Please do not hesitate to tell us about your concerns as this helps us to learn from your experience and to improve services for future patients.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

This service aims to advise and support patients, families and carers and help sort out problems quickly on your behalf.

This service is available, and based, at The James Cook University Hospital but also covers the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton, our community hospitals and community health services. Please ask a member of staff for further information.

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