



SANAMI

Sydney Acoustic Neuroma and Meningioma Institute

Cochlear Implants (Bionic Ear)

Cochlear Implantation is now a routine and well-established treatment for severe deafness in both ears. The cochlear implant (or bionic ear) is considered when a patient has severe deafness and they are having problems hearing with well-fitted high-powered hearing aids (see figure 10).



Figure 10 – A Cochlear Implant for severe bilateral hearing loss.

Newer hybrid cochlear implant devices have been recently released on to the market for patients with a moderate to severe hearing loss, who may also be struggling with conventional hearing aids.

Assessment for cochlear implantation involves a medical evaluation, radiological analysis (using high quality CT and MRI scans) and hearing test analysis. Following the initial evaluation, then each client is considered on an individual basis and discussed at a multi-disciplinary meeting between the ear surgeon and cochlear implant audiologists. We offer this service through the Sydney Hearing Implant Centre (www.northsidehearing.com.au).

Once a candidate has been approved for the implant process then the day surgery procedure can be scheduled at North Shore Private. Your Cochlear Implant Surgeon works closely with a specialist anaesthetist, cochlear implant surgical scrub nurse and recovery staff to ensure the best possible outcome for the surgery.

Generally you will leave North Shore Private hospital that day, or the following morning. The head bandage is removed the next day and wound is closed so that no stitches need to be removed. Once the wound is healed (in 4 weeks) then the bionic ear is connected and you can relearn how to hear again!

For more information on our Cochlear Implant services offered through the Sydney Hearing Implant Centre, visit www.northsidehearing.com.au for simply better hearing.