

BC Children's Hospital Audiology Services

Bone Conduction Hearing Implant Program

Information For Parents Considering a Bone
Conduction Hearing Implant for Their Child



Who is a candidate for a Bone Conduction Hearing Implant?

A bone conduction hearing implant is considered for children or adolescents with permanent hearing loss who are unable to wear a conventional style hearing aid. Most typically, it is for those whose ear is not large or developed enough to accommodate an earmold and a *behind-the-ear* style hearing aid (i.e., those with microtia and/or ear canal atresia).

Eligibility for Bone Conduction Hearing Implant program

- Your child has permanent conductive or mixed hearing loss
- Conventional air conduction (*behind-the-ear style*) hearing aid cannot be worn or is contraindicated
- Your child has been fit with a softband or other non-surgical bone conduction hearing device
- Your child is at least 5 years of age
- Your child and family are willing and able to undergo the bone implant surgery and all required audiological appointments at BC Children's Hospital



How do I know if a Bone Conduction Hearing Implant is right for my child?

Discuss the Bone Conduction Hearing Implant option with your child's Audiologist or Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose and Throat specialist). If you both believe that this would be beneficial, have them submit a referral to the BC Children's Hospital Bone Conduction Hearing Implant program.

The implant team will review the referral and determine whether this would be an appropriate device for your child's hearing circumstances.

What to Expect if your child proceeds with a Bone Conduction Hearing Implant

Upon acceptance into the program, there are several steps to be completed.

1 Initial consultation

Attend an in-person or virtual appointment with the Bone Conduction Hearing Implant team to discuss the implant, surgery and audiology requirements. This is your chance to ask your initial questions.

2 Audiological review with your community audiologist

Your local public health audiologist will complete the initial pre-operative audiological testing. The implant team will provide your audiologist with the required measurements.

- Hearing thresholds are re-checked, with and without your child's current hearing equipment
- Hearing equipment function, wear time and challenges are noted

3 Questionnaires

You and your child's classroom teacher complete hearing and quality of life questionnaires.

4 Pre-operative review at BC Children's Hospital

Your child will attend an in-person appointment to complete the pre-operative audiological assessment.

5 Consent

Your family and child confirm that you understand the risks involved with implanting a bone conduction hearing device and are willing to undergo surgery and complete necessary follow up appointments by signing the consent form.

6 Surgery

- Device is implanted during a day surgery at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver
- Your child will be put to sleep with a general anesthetic
- Surgery lasts approximately 2 hours
- Your child needs to stay overnight in the Lower Mainland for the night following the surgery
- Your child needs time after the surgery to heal. The incision must remain dry for at least a week.
- The device is not 'turned-on' until the activation appointment.

7 Activation Appointment

- At BC Children's Hospital approximately 5-6 weeks after surgery
- This is when the device is turned on and your child will experience sound through the bone conduction hearing device for the first time.

8 Follow up appointments

Parents and child agree to attending all required follow-up appointments and completing all required steps.

Meet your clinical team



Dr. Neil Chadha
Otolaryngologist,
implant surgeon



Annie Wang
Clinical
audiologist



Alison Beers
Audiology
coordinator



Dr. Mark Felton
Otolaryngologist, implant
surgeon & medical coordinator

Discuss with your otolaryngologist (ENT specialist) or community audiologist if you would like more information.

