



Adult Aural Rehabilitation Services

PRE-AND POST-COCHLEAR IMPLANT COMMUNICATION THERAPY

The key to successful listening is the (re)-integration of listening into your life

The Center for Communication, Hearing & Deafness (CCHD) is a non-profit United Way agency dedicated to improving speech and hearing abilities of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. Many adults with severe or profound hearing loss consider cochlear implants an option for improving their hearing and their overall communication skills.

Determining whether a cochlear implant is the right choice for you can be a difficult personal decision. Cochlear implant candidates or recipients come from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, hearing history and communication demands in their lives. With today's advanced technology, the majority of adult implant users can achieve increased ability to understand speech with or without lip-reading. However, each adult's potential for maximum success with an implant is unpredictable. CCHD's services are tailored to each individual's specific communication needs with the goal of maximizing and (re)-integrating listening into his or her daily life.

CCHD is an objective provider of information that can help people reach a decision on whether to have an implant. A CCHD speech-language pathologist will provide a communication assessment and information for developing realistic expectations about what a cochlear implant could do for you. In addition, you will be given a written report that includes assessment results as well as recommendations for treatment or services. These treatment options may also include services not dependent on receiving a cochlear implant, such as speechreading (lip-reading) and speech therapy (improving articulation skills) or auditory training (improving listening skills).

For adults who choose cochlear implant surgery and decide to pursue communication therapy, sessions are typically held once a week. An orientation session is held prior to the initial stimulation or "hook-up" by the audiologist to help prepare you for what will be taking place. In the post-cochlear implant communication sessions, individualized auditory exercises are given along with tips for care and maintenance of the device. Participants are encouraged to include family members and/or friends in the communication sessions in order to facilitate practice in the home.

A holistic approach is taken to improving communication in daily life. Auditory-verbal therapy strategies and techniques are used to develop listening skills. By using structured listening exercises, therapy goals and objectives can be reevaluated and adjusted as progress is made. Support from family members and friends is an important aid in the transition from dependence on lip-reading to more reliance on listening for everyday conversations.

Cochlear Implant Therapy sessions are offered at CCHD, 10243 W. National Avenue, West Allis, Wisconsin. For additional information about services available, call Deborah Kravit, Program Director for Adult Services at (414) 604-7205.