

# Guideline for Hospital Admission

## Ministry of Public Health - Lebanon

### Cochlear implant

#### **Indications for cochlear implant in adults:**

- 18 years old or older
- Bilateral severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss (70 dB hearing loss or greater)
- Little or no benefit from hearing aids for 6 months
- Psychologically suitable
- No medical or anatomic contraindications

#### **Indications for cochlear implant in children:**

- 12 months or older
- Bilateral severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss with PTA (Pure Tone Average) of 90 dB or greater in better ear (roughly: hears only shouting)
- Little or no benefit with hearing aids (word/sentence recognition when child >5 years is 30% or less; if child <5 years old then ask parents)
- Must be able to tolerate wearing hearing aids and show some aided ability
- Enrolled in aural/oral education program
- No medical or anatomic contraindications
- Motivated parents

#### **Contraindications for cochlear implant:**

- Incomplete hearing loss
- Active middle ear infection
- Cochlear aplasia/agenesis or small internal auditory canal (CN8 atresia); (Dysplasia not necessarily a contraindication)
- Neurofibromatosis II, psychosis, organic brain dysfunction.
- Labyrinthitis ossificans
- Advanced otosclerosis
- History of Canal Wall Down (CWD) mastoidectomy
- Unrealistic expectations

Adults who have had very recent meningitis should not undergo cochlear implant until 6 months following their episode, since some of their hearing might return during this period.

**Unilateral cochlear implant** is recommended for patients satisfying the above indications.

**Simultaneous bilateral cochlear implants** are recommended for patients satisfying the above indications, and are either (a) Children, or (b) Adults with an additional impairment (such as being blind) which increases their reliance on their hearing for spatial awareness.

**Sequential bilateral implants** for patients who had previously received unilateral implants are generally not recommended, unless the above indications are satisfied and following specialist assessment.

**References:**

Hearing impairment - cochlear implants, NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (January 2009); Cochlear implants for severe to profound deafness in children and adults

NICE summary available at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA166/Guidance/pdf/English>

**Checklist:**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Adults</b>		
18 years old or older		
Bilateral severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss (70 dB hearing loss or greater)		
Little or no benefit from hearing aids for 6 months		
Psychologically suitable		
No medical or anatomic contraindications		
<b>Children</b>		
12 months or older		
Bilateral severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss with PTA (Pure Tone Average) of 90 dB or greater in better ear (roughly: hears only shouting)		
Little or no benefit with hearing aids (word/sentence recognition when child >5 years is 30% or less; if child <5 years old then ask parents)		
Must be able to tolerate wearing hearing aids and show some aided ability		
Enrolled in aural/oral education program		
No medical or anatomic contraindications		
Motivated parents		