



Your Hearing Rehabilitation Journey

ENT Consultation

- The Otorhinolaryngologist (ENT doctor) will review your condition and refer you for hearing aid evaluation if necessary.

Audiologist Consultation

- Your audiologist will counsel and recommend the type of hearing device suitable for you.
- If you decide to purchase a hearing aid, a customised order will be placed.

Hearing Aid Fitting

- When your hearing aid arrives, you will have a fitting session.
- Your audiologist will teach you how to use and maintain the device.

Follow-Up

- After using the hearing aid in your daily life, your audiologist will follow up to ensure that your hearing needs are met.
- Your hearing level should be tested once a year. You can also request for a fine-tuning of your hearing aid.

Your Care Team

Otorhinolaryngologist

Doctor who specialises in medical conditions of the ear, nose and throat.

Audiologist

Healthcare professional who specialises in hearing and balance disorders. The audiologist will help you in choosing a hearing aid or assistive devices, fitting and tuning.

Speech Therapist

Healthcare professional whose role is speech correction and rehabilitation.

Clinic 1B
TTSH Medical Centre, Level 1

Contact:
6357 7000 (Central Hotline)

Impact of Your Hearing Loss is More Than What You Know

Communication difficulties can have serious impact on your personal and work life, and may lead to isolation, depression, social withdrawal, higher fall risk and hospitalisation.

In 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published new guidelines for management of hearing loss (*risk reduction of cognitive decline and dementia: WHO guidelines. 2019*) which concluded that the use of hearing aids is important not only for correction of hearing loss, but also has other benefits.

Therefore it is important to seek professional help and early intervention if you suspect that you or your family member has hearing loss.

Tips for Communicating with People Who Have Hearing Loss

- ❑ Ensure good ambient lighting and face them directly to provide visual communication cues.
- ❑ Get his/her attention (e.g. by saying the person's name) before beginning conversation.
- ❑ Use short and simple sentences during conversation.
- ❑ Speak clearly, slowly and naturally without shouting or exaggerating your mouth movement. Shouting may distort your speech.
- ❑ Use hand gestures or facial expressions.
- ❑ During social gatherings, choose seats or conversation areas away from crowded or noisy areas.
- ❑ Turn off or lower the volume of the television/ radio during conversation. Do not compete with background noise.
- ❑ Try to use different words or ways of saying the same thing, rather than repeating the original words over and over as they may have difficulty understanding particular phrases or words.

HEARING DEVICE OPTIONS:

1. Air Conduction Hearing Aid

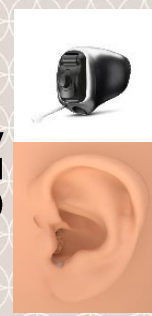
- ❖ A small electronic device designed to improve hearing by making sounds louder and clearer (audible) to a person with hearing impairment
- ❖ Custom-made to fit an individual's ear canal
- ❖ May not be suitable for malformed ear or the ear that is prone to frequent ear infection

Types of Air Conduction Hearing Aid

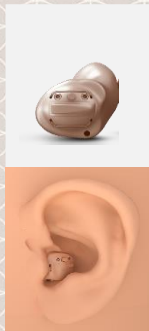
Invisible In Canal (IIC)



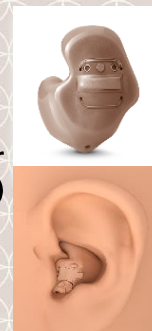
Completely In Canal (CIC)



In The Canal (ITC)



In The Ear (ITE)



Behind The Ear (BTE)

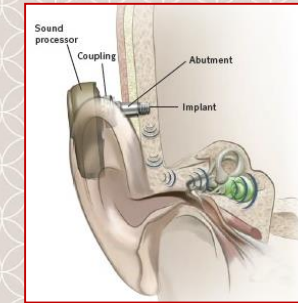


Receiver In Canal (RIC)



2. Bone Anchored Hearing Aid

- ❖ Has 2 components – an external sound processor, and a surgical titanium implant
- ❖ The implant can be fixed through the skin, or hidden under the skin, and involves minor surgery.
- ❖ Not suitable for people with reduced function of the hearing nerves



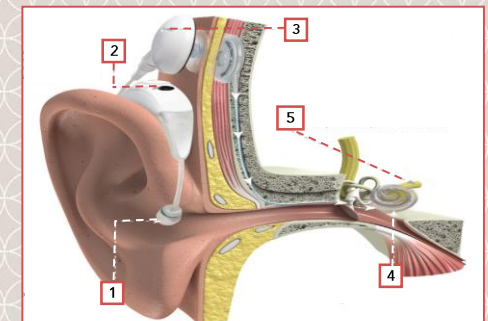
Implant & Abutment only

With Sound Processor attached

3. Cochlear Implant

- ❖ Has 2 components – an external sound processor, and a sophisticated surgical implant
- ❖ Suitable for people with severe-to-profound sensory (nerve) hearing loss.
- ❖ Requires minor surgery

How a cochlear implant works



1. The microphone captures sound waves in the air
2. Sound waves are converted into detailed digital information by the sound processor
3. The external magnetic headpiece sends the digital signals to the internal implant and electrode array
4. The electrode array in the implants sends electrical signals to the hearing nerve
5. The hearing nerve sends impulses to the brain, where they are interpreted as sound