



## **COCHLEAR IMPLANT EVALUATION/TESTING**

A cochlear implant is a small electronic device that is surgically implanted and has given the gift of hearing to thousands of children and adults. Cochlear implants are not hearing aids, nor do they restore hearing. The implant converts sound energy into an electrical signal that gets transmitted to the cochlear nerve (nerve of hearing), and then to the brain.

The implant consists of an external device worn on the ear or body that contains a microphone to pick up sound in the environment, and the surgically implanted internal receiver/stimulator that converts the sound information to electrical pulses that send this information to the brain through the electrode placed in the cochlea (organ of hearing).

Our cochlear implant team is dedicated to providing patients with the best hearing health care and services.

The process starts with an Evaluation to determine if you are an appropriate candidate. If you are a candidate, you will subsequently have a pre-operative evaluation (same day or in the near future) with your surgeon

**The Evaluation Process** is different from other hearing tests you may have had in the past. This testing includes sentence testing at specific hearing levels rather than just words. After the initial testing portion, we will review:

- If you are a candidate based on FDA and insurance criteria
- How a cochlear implant works and what it looks like
- Brief overview of the surgery (to be discussed in more detail with your surgeon at your pre-operative visit
- Expected follow-up visits and time commitment for rehabilitation
- What to expect after surgery once the device is turned on (“activated”)
- Cochlear implant device and accessory selection, if desired
- Need for Meningitis vaccination

**\*\*Please bring a family member or friend with you for support. The cochlear implant evaluation appointment is 90 minutes and a lot of information will be discussed.**

**\*\*You are not committed to any procedure at this visit.**