

Cochlear Implant Candidacy Considerations for Adults

A cochlear implant may provide significant improvements in hearing and speech perception compared to appropriately fitted hearing aids. They can also provide significant improvements in functional hearing and quality of life.

The following checklist has been developed as a patient management tool to help you determine when a cochlear implant candidacy assessment is warranted. If **two or more** of the following questions regarding functional hearing are yes, a cochlear implant referral is appropriate.

- Does the patient have a moderate to profound hearing loss in either ear?
- Does the patient have a ski-slope sensorineural hearing loss with poor word recognition test results?
- Does the patient have a word recognition score poorer than 65% in either ear?
- Does the patient's aided hearing loss significantly impact daily interactions either socially or professionally?
- Does the patient have difficulty following a conversation in noisy situations while wearing appropriately fitted hearing aids?
- Does the patient have difficulty communicating on the telephone while wearing appropriately hearing aids?
- Is the patient dissatisfied with their current use of hearing aids?
- Does the patient have difficulty communicating with one or more people when background noise is present?
- Does the patient have difficulty in situations when lip reading is unavailable?
- Does the patient often ask people to repeat themselves?
- Is the patient withdrawing socially because the effort of listening has become overwhelming and/or frustrating?

